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Terrorist blows himself up on way to attack

HERB KEINON

A TERRORIST who was apparently headed for a suicide attack mission blew himself up yesterday in a soccer field in Umm Tuba village in southern Jerusalem...



Kiryat Shmona residents examine the hole a Katyusha rocket made in the ceiling of a kindergarten yesterday.

Talks stalled as IAF strikes at Jibril base

DAVID RUDGE

THE IAF twice blasted a Palestinian terrorist base in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley yesterday, just 10 km. from the Syrian border...

Washington. Prior to Christopher's meeting with Assad, the prospects of a brokered accord appeared to be slim.

Israel is not prepared to accept a return to this situation and, if necessary, is willing to continue Operation Grapes of Wrath until its aims are attained.

Vilna'i: Operation Grapes of Wrath is far from over

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

AS Operation Grapes of Wrath entered its third week, Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj. Gen. Matan Vilna'i said it is continuing according to plan and is far from over.

ment, so Jerusalem could hammer out a deal. Still, the general said that the IDF attacks had forced Hizbullah further away from the border and as a result the Katyusha fire is less accurate.

the vacuum that has been created. We hope it will be the Lebanese government and not the Iranians and Hizbullah, as has been the case," he said.

Four lightly wounded in Katyusha attacks

DAVID RUDGE

THREE soldiers and a civilian were lightly wounded in Katyusha attacks on the Galilee yesterday. One soldier was struck in the neck by glass when a rocket exploded near his vehicle as he was driving in Kiryat Shmona in the afternoon.

Earlier, in the morning, a Katyusha rocket exploded in the Western Galilee region wounding three soldiers, one lightly and two with scratches.

The explosion blew out the windshield of the bus, which was not carrying passengers. "I was on a private trip, not for work, when suddenly the rocket hit. You can't hear anything when you're driving, and I only realized what had happened when the windshield blew out in my face," said Lapidot.

Nevertheless, he said residents are prepared to stand firm until the aims of Operation Grapes of Wrath are achieved. But he stressed that thousands of people who left communities in the North are now facing difficulties because they had been asked to vacate hotels and other places where they had been staying.

Radiation release at Chernobyl is 'harmless'

KIEV (Reuters) - A small amount of radiation escaped at the Chernobyl nuclear power station on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the world's worst nuclear disaster...

Peres, Clinton to issue statement on 'upgrading security relations'

DAVID MAKOVSKY NEW YORK

DURING his upcoming US visit, Prime Minister Shimon Peres and US President Bill Clinton will make a "joint statement" declaring that both countries will start negotiations on upgrading the bilateral security relationship...

Instead, sources say, Shahal wants night-vision equipment and helicopters, which he believes would advance the goal of separation.

Senior Israeli security officials say they want to craft an agreement which will not include a full-blown defense treaty.

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Table with columns: SHABBAT, BEGINS, ENDS, Jerusalem, Tal Aviv, Haifa, BeerSheva, Eilat

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PNC council elects executive

THE Palestine National Council re-elected President Yasser Arafat yesterday to head the new PLO Executive Committee, incorporating for the first time officials from the territories.

Four of the members are from Jerusalem, which Palestinians hope to have as the capital of their future state. The list includes Faisal Hussein, the head of Palestinian affairs in Jerusalem.

The council, which met until late last night, was expected to increase the number of Fatah members from two to five, strengthening PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's position.

Meanwhile, many Palestinians were perturbed that the change in the covenant on which the PNC voted Wednesday was contained in a take it or leave it package, with no time for debate. For Israel, the operative words leave room for different interpretations.

"The National Charter is to be changed canceling the articles which contradict the letters of exchange between the PLO and the Israeli government," according to the version pub-

JON IMMANUEL

lished yesterday by Wafa, the official PLO press agency.

The proposal refers to an act in the future and does not mention which specific articles among the 33 are to be repealed. These appear to be obvious, but there are already differences of opinion concerning those which require annulment.

Channel 2 cited four articles: 9, 15, 19, and 22, the number generally accepted by Palestinians. Ma'ariv added 10, 16, and 20.

However, there are at least nine articles which ought to be seriously changed, those mentioned, plus 21 and 23. One "rejects all solutions which are substitutes for the total liberation of Palestine," the other "requires all states to consider Zionism an illegitimate movement."

In addition, article 4 talks of "the Zionist occupation."

Palestinian sources close to the PNC said the

articles for repeal were not mentioned, which would have removed all doubt, because that would have required the drawn-out debate which Arafat wanted to avoid.

"But it is better this way. It is more effective by being more general and I am sure the proposal was checked with the other side," said Ghassan Khatib, a former negotiator.

Peace Watch maintained that the PNC did not fulfill its obligation for this reason and because "the actual amendment has been left to a future date."

However, the Oslo 2 agreement says only that "the PNC will convene and formally approve the necessary changes." It has done this in a general way by instructing that the necessary changes be made.

Although the PNC did not identify the specific articles to be repealed, neither did the Oslo 2 agreement. The real debate over exactly which articles will be revoked is still to come.

Related stories, Page 7

Covenant decision receives international praise

HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton "warmly welcomed" the Palestinian National Council's decision to alter the parts of its covenant calling for Israel's destruction.

Clinton said the action shows the PNC "has honored an important commitment" it made last September.

"The president applauds this action as a decisive statement, at this difficult moment, that those who champion peace will not be deterred by the murderous acts of those desperate to prevent the people of the Middle East from building a better future," Clinton's press secretary Mike McCurry said Wednesday night in a statement.

France, Germany, Italy and Austria also welcomed the decision.

"It is a historic event and a victory for peace and all the people of the region," French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette said in Damascus yesterday.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel released a statement calling the decision "a sign that it is possible to boldly advance the international efforts for peace in the Middle East."

"It is a decision of historic importance on the Palestinian people's road towards peace and democracy," caretaker Italian Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli added in a statement.

Marlyn Henry adds from New York:

The American Jewish community welcomed the vote on the covenant. Numerous groups are looking forward to what the Anti-Defamation League called "continued demonstrations of good will," such as controlling terror.

Report: Israel will strike Iran if Jewish or Israeli targets attacked

DOUGLAS DAVIS LONDON

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres has warned that Teheran will be held responsible for terrorist attacks against Israeli or Jewish targets abroad, and that Israel will retaliate with air strikes against Iran, according to reports in London yesterday.

The warning, delivered to Teheran via France, indicates Israeli concern about Iranian reprisals for Operation Grapes of Wrath.

Sources believe Iran might be planning a repetition of the 1994 bomb attack on the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires in which 86 people were killed.

According to London-based newsletter Foreign Report, Peres specifically said the Israeli strike would target Teheran itself, as well as Iran's nuclear reactors.

The newsletter also reports that a "backroom row" has erupted among senior intelligence and military officials over the Lebanon operation.

A senior Mossad official was reported to be highly critical of the operation and was said to have insisted that the only way to stop Hizbullah from firing Katyusha rockets into northern Israel is to strike at Syrian targets in Lebanon.

If Israel had wiped out 200 Syrian soldiers, he said, Damascus would have gotten the message and Hizbullah would

have stopped firing Katyushas. Another battle is said to be underway between Northern Command and the Intelligence Corps, which has been blamed for "failing to accurately assess the situation in Lebanon and Hizbullah's capacities" and for mistakenly predicting how long it would take to stop Hizbullah.

In a related development, it is understood that US Secretary of State Warren Christopher has rejected a proposal by Syrian President Hafez Assad that the UN be persuaded to consider an end to the trade embargo of Iraq.

Sources say Assad suggested such a move could unblock the frozen negotiations with Israel over the Golan and other peace issues.

Assad, who heads a rival Ba'athist regime, is a longtime foe of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and analysts give conflicting explanations for his proposal.

Some believe Assad was engaging in a tactical move designed to deflect blame for the deadlocked talks, while making the Americans an offer he knew they would have to refuse.

Others contended that he is seeking to outflank Jordan's King Hussein, acquire a popular following in Baghdad, and position himself to play an influential role in a post-Saddam Iraq.

General Assembly close to condemning Israel

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

THE UN General Assembly, in the third day of a marathon debate, was considering a resolution late yesterday that would condemn Israeli attacks on Lebanon, demand Israel withdrawal, and hold it responsible for reparations.

Since the 185-nation assembly began the debate on Tuesday with a speech by Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, representatives of dozens of states have taken the podium.

The overwhelming majority have been highly critical of "Israeli aggression" saying that the Israeli response to the Hizbullah attacks has been out of proportion.

A comparable resolution failed

in the Security Council last Thursday, the day Israel shelled the UNIFIL base at Kana village.

Hebron area settlers: Covenant annulment is a fraud

HERB KEINON

KIRYAT Arba and Hebron settlement leaders dismissed the annulment of the Palestinian Covenant as a fraud, and warned that an IDF withdrawal from Hebron would turn the city into a Hamas stronghold.

Zvi Katzover, head of the Kiryat Arba Local Council, said yesterday that the Palestinian National Council decision to amend the covenant is "just words."

"They did not cancel the covenant," Katzover said. "They

nuly canceled certain clauses. Only within six months will we see which ones they canceled, and which ones they did not."

Katzover, who along with Hebron settlement head Noam Arnon is concerned that the IDF may withdraw from Hebron as early as next week, said that amending the covenant was only one of the conditions Prime Minister Shimon Peres said was necessary before the IDF would go ahead with the redeployment.

The other condition, Katzover said, was the arrest of Hamas fugitive Mohammed Deif.

The IDF, according to the Oslo accords, was supposed to withdraw from Hebron on March 28, but redeployment was delayed after the wave of suicide bombings.

Katzover said that even if Deif is arrested, he expects the government to wait until after the elections to withdraw from Hebron.

"Within a month there will be

elections, and it is possible that the nation will vote no confidence in the agreements, and no confidence in the Palestinian Authority," Katzover said. "There is no reason in the world - we have waited so long until now - not to wait until after the elections and see what the nation wants. If the country decides it is not comfortable with leaving Hebron, it will be impossible to turn back the clock."

Meanwhile, the National Religious Party is calling for an urgent meeting of the Knesset to deal with the possibility of a redeployment in Hebron next week.

The party is negotiating with Likud and the hard parties to get the 30 necessary signatures needed to call a special session of the Knesset, which is currently in recess.

NRP head Ze'evulun Hammer said, "Just as it is inconceivable to evacuate Kiryat Shmona and border settlement residents from their

homes, so it is forbidden to evacuate Jews from Hebron. The withdrawal of the IDF from the city means abandoning the security of the Israelis living in the City of the Patriarchs."

MK Hanan Porat said anyone responsible for deserting Hebron "would be causing a rift with the religious and hardi world. It would be a tragic mistake from whichever way you look at it."

Porat said even Yasser Arafat was not in a rush to take control of Hebron but is being forced to act by the opposition groups, who want to turn the area into a bases for terror attacks against Israel.

In a related development, Maj-Gen. Oren Shaloh, government coordinator in the territories, met with Rolf Berg, of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, who heads the Norwegian observer force which is to deploy in the city. The two discussed security arrangements in the city.

Liat Collins and Ilim contributed to this report.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Emunah congratulates Yehudah Charney, son and grandson of our devoted members, for his great success in the International Bible Quiz.

ARRIVALS

Hadassah-International delegates headed by Mariene Post, Hadassah National and International President and Deborah Kaplan, Coordinator, Hadassah-International, to participate in the 10th Annual Hadassah-International Congress in Jerusalem April 28 - May 2, 1996

BIRTH

TURETSKY: To Anna and Daniel, a son, on 21st April 1996. Grandchild for Gloria and Professor Alex-Deutsch, and Rohel and the late Rabbi Morris Turetsky 21

Yesterday's winning numbers and cards

In last night's Paysis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 703846 won NIS 1,000,000. The holder of ticket number 567995 won a car. Tickets numbered 648009, 014887, 637032, 736102, 636401, 125523, 005101 and 250490 won NIS 5,000. Those

tickets ending in 71051, 17790, 79343, 78729, 88615, 57526, 85368, 30759, 52610, 61246, 77367, 95065, 22373, 73874, 04860 56403, 70242, 26958 and 29804 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 305, 988, 099, and 760 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 90, 68, 25, 30 won

NIS 30. Tickets ending in 28 and 93 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 0 and 5 won NIS 10. In yesterday's Mifal Hapaysis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the seven of spades, jack of hearts, 10 of diamonds and ace of clubs.

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מסכה מן הארץ

Netanyahu cautious over covenant changes

LIKUD Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu cautioned against cheering changes in the Palestinian Covenant, "because these amendments are not at all clear-cut at the moment."

Speaking yesterday to his party's campaign steering committee, Netanyahu said that if he again "had to decide whether to vote for or against the Oslo accords, I would oppose them. But this does not mean that we do not now have to minimize the damage these agreements have already created on the ground."

He presented the committee with a seven-clause document containing his guidelines for future contacts with the Palestinians.

MK Ze'ev Binyamin Begin expressed categorical opposition to what is viewed as the Likud's new platform, and MK Ariel Sharon asked for clarifications.

"According to Netanyahu, 'the Palestinian National Council did not nullify the offensive clauses in the covenant, but in effect recommended that unspecified clauses, which Israel considers violations of the Oslo agreement, be amended. Which clauses will in fact be eventually scrapped, if at all, depends on Arafat's interpretation."

SARAH HONIG

"As of now, all that happened was the appointment of a committee to redraft the covenant. There has been no unequivocal scrapping of clauses calling for Israel's destruction."

Should the PNC in the end "actually amend the covenant, it would certainly be a positive step in the right direction," Netanyahu said.

"But the government must make sure that the PLO unequivocally recognizes Zionism and Israel's right to exist. The PA must also live up to all of its undertakings, most of all combating terror, ending virulent anti-Israel incitement and propaganda, and ceasing attempts to undermine the status of Jerusalem as Israel's capital."

Begin argued that "peace cannot be made with the PLO gang of murderers... any government which negotiates with this gang is unworthy of confidence, regardless who is at its helm."

Netanyahu's document includes the following guidelines for a Likud-led government:

1. The government will recognize the facts created by the Oslo accords and will endeavor to minimize the dangers to Israel's security inherent in them.

2. The government will deal with the PA to stabilize arrangements on the ground. It will negotiate the final status agreement on condition that the PA lives up to its undertakings, especially:

a. The ascertained unequivocal nullification of all covenant clauses calling for Israel's destruction.

b. The prevention of terror and anti-Israel incitement.

3. United Jerusalem is Israel's capital under its sole sovereignty. PLO activity in Jerusalem would cease and its institutions will be closed.

4. The IDF will have full freedom to operate everywhere and at any time against terror.

5. The Palestinians will have self-government and will run their affairs, except for defense and foreign policy, which will continue to be Israel's responsibility, and issues which will demand coordination.

The government will oppose the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

6. The government will encourage the establishment of places of employment in the PA areas.

7. The government will seek to involve Jordan in the final agreement in those spheres that will be agreed upon in negotiations.



Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli (left), Justice Minister David Liba'i and Prime Minister Shimon Peres present Labor's platform for the upcoming elections at the party's convention yesterday. (Israel Sun/Hanoch Grizinsky)

Labor convention approves party platform

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR'S convention, which was held in Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium yesterday afternoon, approved the party platform for the 14th Knesset.

Shortly after the convention, Labor kicked off its election campaign in a festive ceremony, at which Prime Minister Shimon Peres sang the party's campaign jingle - released for the first time - together with hundreds of Labor youth.

Peres said in his speech that since parties' platforms are rarely implemented anyway, it would be preferable to speak of "guiding lines to the negotiations without an explicit commitment. The results of the negotiations with the Syrians and Palestinians will be determined by a public referendum."

Criticizing the Likud's changing positions, Peres said, "there are parties today - I think there is one in Israel too - which regard platforms as an answer to public opinion surveys. Every day the survey results change, every day their platform changes."

The main changes in Labor's

political platform consisted of omitting the clauses negating the establishment of a Palestinian state and the clauses establishing the Golan's importance to Israel's security even in a time of peace from the previous party platform agreed upon in 1992.

The convention accepted the reservations of Golan Council Secretary Yebuda Wohlman concerning the omission of the second clause and decided to include in the platform that, "Labor sees in the Golan a region

of national importance to the State of Israel."

A reservation presented by Minister Yossi Beilin, suggesting not to list the explicit regions over which Israel will implement sovereignty, was rejected.

Beilin suggested that instead of mentioning the Jordan Valley, Gush Etzion and the area northwest of the Dead Sea, the platform should say simply that Israel will "withdraw from densely populated Palestinian areas and remain in areas where our population is larger, according to the principles of the Alon Plan."

Third Way: Labor abandoned its principles

LIAT COLLINS

THE Third Way accused the Labor Party yesterday of abandoning the principles of Zionism, settlements and security by changing its electoral platform. Third Way members particularly attacked Labor for not including a requirement for Israeli control over the Golan Heights, and explicit support for communities in the Jordan Valley.

"The Third Way's platform demands that any agreement with Syria include Israeli sovereignty over Jewish settlements on the Golan Heights, water sources and vital defense lines. The permanent arrangements with the Palestinians must provide for Israeli sovereignty in the Jordan Valley and resources must be allo-

cated to the area," said Third Way leader Avigdor Kahalani.

"Since there is now no difference between the Labor and Meretz platforms, the Third Way is the only party to support territorial concessions and separation from the Palestinians while preserving the defense and settlement assets of the Golan Heights, Jordan Valley, and Judea and Samaria," he said.

Ramon: Labor won't hit Netanyahu 'below the belt'

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR'S personal campaign against Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu, which was launched yesterday, will exclude "any blow below the belt," campaign information chairman Haim Ramon said at a press briefing.

Ramon said he had ruled out any campaign idea or suggestion relating to any violation on the "cassette affair. I don't think such

a thing is appropriate in Israel and I wouldn't allow it, even if it was proved effective."

Labor yesterday published a series of "newspaper ads" entitled "Bibi is not suitable," featuring quotes from Likud MKs Binyamin Begin and Ariel Sharon and Gesher's David Levy.

In response, the Likud's campaign team called the anti-Netanyahu ads "the product of confusion, panic and internal conflict in the Labor campaign headquarters."

It decided "not to be provoked into the campaign of mudslinging and incitement upon which Labor

has embarked."

The Likud vowed to continue "a campaign based chiefly on defense and security issues under the slogan: No security. No peace. No reason to vote for Peres."

Ramon pointed out that Labor's ads refrain from saying anything "too harsh" and merely quote what Netanyahu's own colleagues have said to the press about him.

Meretz wants Temkin as next absorption minister

9% this year.

However, he noted that there are insoluble problems, such as finding work for the hundreds of immigrant mechanical engineers in a country which does not build machines.

Temkin said that surveys show that 10% of new immigrants are considering voting for Meretz, a number similar to that the party received in 1992. He added that the picture has been muddied by the fact that new immigrant parties are running this time. (Tim)

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Covenant puzzles

TO paraphrase Mark Twain, the news of the PLO Covenant's demise is grossly exaggerated. Yasser Arafat's ability to get an overwhelming majority of Palestine National Council members to support changing this seminal PLO document, and the vagueness of the announcement on Wednesday night served to obscure a central fact: The PNC resolution was no more than a decision to make changes in the covenant. What precisely these changes will be, and what the new version will say is still anyone's guess.

As Peace Watch, the non-partisan organization monitoring the Oslo accord, put it yesterday, this action by the PNC "does not satisfy the obligation laid down in the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement (Oslo 2). The PNC did not actually amend the covenant, but instead approved in principle that changes would be made, without specifying which clauses would be changed, in what manner, or by what date."

As of last night, no official version of Wednesday's resolution was available. The communiqué of the Palestinian Authority's news agency only asserted that the PNC had decided on changes of the articles in the covenant which are incompatible with the letters exchanged between the PLO and the Israeli government on September 9 and 10, 1993 (in which the PLO and Israel recognized each other's legitimacy).

One of the resolution's chief opponents, Khaidar Abdel Shaffi, said he understood the proposed changes would apply to only two articles. Another PNC member PNC said four articles would be altered. Still another said no specific number is under consideration.

The only thing beyond doubt is that the PNC will not meet its obligation under Article XXXI(9) of Oslo 2, which stipulates that the changes of the offending covenant articles must be completed within two months after the elected local Palestinian Council is inaugurated. This means that they must be made by May 7.

Only those who are familiar with the language of the covenant can appreciate why the late Yitzhak Rabin conditioned Israel's recognition of the PLO on fundamental changes in this document. Of its 33 articles, only the last three, which deal with procedural matters, are devoid of references to the illegitimacy of Israel, the denial of the Jews' right to nationhood, the paramountcy of the armed struggle, or the imperative of liberating all of Palestine. (Since no Palestinian state has ever existed, the covenant defines "Palestine" by the borders of the British Mandate, a territory granted Britain by the League of Nations for the explicit purpose of establishing a Jewish national home.)

Under pressure from the US administration and Congress, and with Israel forced to freeze the withdrawal process after the suicide bombings, Arafat had to do something to ensure the continuation of the Oslo process and the financial grants by the donor nations. But he did not "formally revoke clauses of the covenant which call for Israel's destruction," as the world press has mistakenly described it. Nor was his move "the most important development in our region in a hundred years," as Prime Minister Shimon Peres egregiously put it last night. In fact, if what Arafat has wrought does not prove to be a travesty and a hoax, it will be nothing short of a miracle.

No hero for Chechnya

THE passing of Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev will be little mourned in Russia, or beyond, and however much he is hailed now as a legendary martyr in Chechnya, he will soon be forgotten even there. Dudayev once said that Russian history is one of barbarism, stealing, and killing. He should know, for he was a willing contributor to that tradition. Chechen efforts to romanticize Dudayev since he led the rebellion against Moscow fail a reality check. The fact that most of the world has condemned Russia's brutal and incompetent response, which left 30,000 people dead and most of the province and its capital devastated, may have misled the Chechens into believing there is some international sympathy for their revolt. There isn't.

Dudayev deserved some credit for pulling himself out of a horrific start to life when his family was among hundreds of thousands of Chechens deported to Siberia by Stalin. Dudayev managed to emerge to a successful military career, rising to be a Soviet air force general. His wrong turn came with the collapse of the Soviet Union, when he opted to turn his back on the spreading wave of democracy and adopt the mantle of Islamic warrior against the "new czars" in Moscow. It was clear to anyone of intelligence that Russia's shedding of its satellites had its limits, and those reasonable limits stopped short at the provinces in the

Russian Federation. Elected president of Chechnya in a patently rigged election in 1991, Dudayev declared independence and started his region on the road to disaster.

He turned Chechnya into a gangster state, run by bandits for the benefit of drug and arms peddlers. Having declared his role model to be Sheikh Mansur, an early Chechen Islamic warrior, he proceeded to behave like Al Capone - adopting even the dress, entourage of hoods, and lifestyle of 1930s Chicago.

Ironically, Dudayev may be as dangerous in death as he was in life. At least he was a figurehead most of the unruly Chechens accepted. In his absence, scattered and independent rebel field commanders are sure to engage in petty power struggles and efforts to prove their worth by more acts of warfare and terrorism. It has been said Chechnya may enter a "Hizbullah" phase, but Afghanistan might be a more apt metaphor.

President Boris Yeltsin's aides are understandably pining for the boost Dudayev's elimination will add to his already accelerating re-election campaign, but the rebel leader's ghost may come back to haunt him. So too may Moscow's recent hypocritical condemnation of Israel for using excessive force in Lebanon. One thing at least may be predicted with certainty - Israel's problems in Lebanon will be solved long before Russia's are in Chechnya.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir, - Solly Harris's article of April 9 concerning collective punishment is both refreshing and frightening.

It is refreshing in that it is a bold admission that the practices of the closure are specifically intended to punish Palestinian society as a whole. It does not attempt to disguise these activities as being "preventive" or necessary for security or in any way intended to keep out terrorists bent on further bombings, or protect the Israeli population. It recognizes these actions as punitive and intended to hold the entire Palestinian society responsible for the actions of the suicide bombers. This is extremely important because it is difficult to protest or argue with actions that are essential to save lives or advance security in a meaningful way. Such actions, within reasonable limits, are legitimate, justified, and defensible. Punishment is an entirely different story.

The article is frightening, however, because it correctly reflects a basic primitive feeling shared by many Israelis that is seldom publicly acknowledged; which involves a tribal lust for revenge, and a desire to view matters within the context of an ongoing total war between the two societies. This primal instinct is unwilling to make distinctions or acknowledge differences within each camp. Such attitude considers international law and the basic norms of modern civilized society to be irrelevant, and reverts to collective tribal classifications. In this sense, the Palestinian society as a whole is to be held responsible and punished.

This mentality, if accepted, will not shy away from starving the entire Palestinian population, sees no fault in denying medical care to babies and the elderly, and if they die at check points, then this is the logical consequence of the actions of the suicide bombers who alone are to blame for such suffering, and whose societies must be made to pay the price for their actions. While such an emotional reaction may be understandable, it flies in the face of the more rational and sober as well as civilized and legal approach which insists on individual responsibility for individual acts, and which makes clear distinctions between civilians and combatants, and which attempts to seek out proper classifications so that the true enemies of the peace, and the true criminals and terrorists, can be isolated even within their own society and properly dealt with. Legal norms prohibit collective punishment developed during the Nazi occupation of Europe, when occupation troops openly informed each conquered village or town that they would punish them for any resistance, and would kill 10 of their leading citizens for every German soldier killed by the underground resistance.

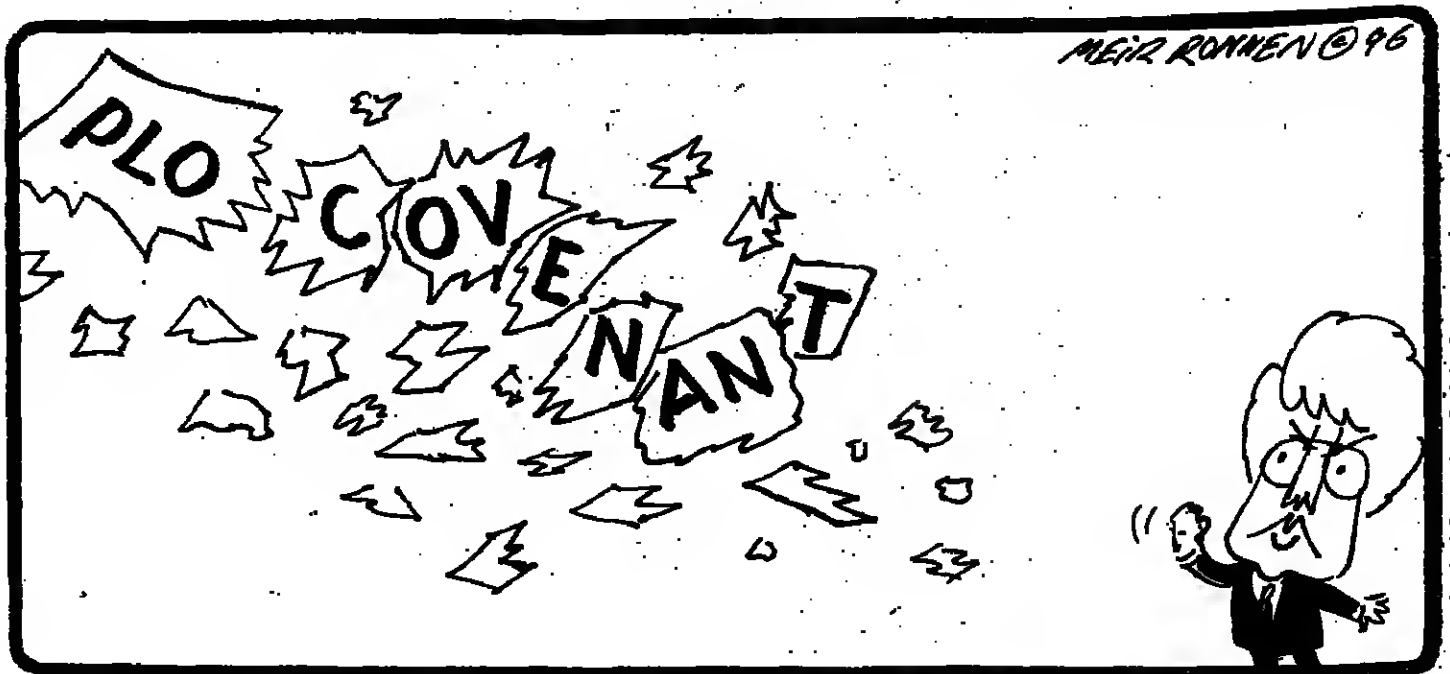
COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

Perhaps the worst result of this approach, apart from its total lack of legitimacy, morality, and its questionable efficacy, is that it falls precisely into the same moral category as the terrorists who target civilian Israelis in the heart of Tel Aviv. To the terrorist, they are part of the Israeli

enemy community whose crimes against the Palestinian people are many. The terrorist who makes no distinction between Israeli civilians and combatants, between settlers in the heart of Hebron and shoppers in the heart of Tel Aviv; between Israeli soldiers in the West Bank and children in a school bus in Ramat Gan has no basis to complain against "collective punishment!" but those who still maintain some basis in law, humanity and decency must insist on narrowing their scope on individual responsibility for individual actions, and on moving beyond the tribal declaration of total warfare - into a joint effort to isolate extremists within each community, and to allow the majorities in both communities to seek out the difficult path towards peaceful coexistence. JONATHAN KUTTAB Jerusalem.

VOTER PARTICIPATION

Sir, - At the pre-Pessah meeting with Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, Prime Minister Shimon Peres urged the Shas spiritual leader to instruct his followers not to vote in the prime ministerial election (April 9). That corrupts basic democratic concepts. By contrast, opponents in US elections urge maximum voter participation. Peres's effort to have Shas boycott the prime ministerial election adopts the practice of senior Moslem clerics in Jordan and Egypt who issued fatwas (religious edicts) prohibiting an Islamic presence in the Knesset (your report of April 2). JOSEPH LERNER Jerusalem.



Syria's Katyusha diplomacy

MOSHE ZAK

THE Russian foreign minister's plane circled over Damascus for 45 minutes awaiting permission to land from President Assad, who wanted to please the American secretary of state, who hoped to wrap up his mediation between Israel and Syria before the Russian's arrival.

Only when the plane's fuel was almost spent was it granted permission to land in a secluded corner of Damascus Airport, allowing the American to leave without meeting the Russian.

That didn't happen this week, but during the disengagement talks in May 1974. The Russian was Andrei Gromyko and the American Henry Kissinger - but it was the same Assad.

This week he did it the other way round, snubbing Secretary of State Christopher by making him wait while he talked with King Hussein's intervention to prevent a face-to-face confrontation with Israel. And during the Lebanon war in 1982, Assad was careful to localize the fighting, avoiding an all-out confrontation, even after our air force destroyed the Syrian missile batteries.

Syria prefers to act against Israel by remote control, without risking war, like Assad's predecessors did just before the Six Day War. Assad dresses up this tactic by arguing that he cannot tie the hands of the resistance to Israeli occupation.

This was Kissinger's problem 22 years ago. This week, it was Christopher's. Assad is realistic enough to avoid a frontal confrontation with Israel. When he was defense minister and commander of the air force in 1970, he kept his planes on the ground

when Syrian tanks entered Northern Jordan, and the IDF was marshalling its forces near the border.

On the second day of the Yom Kippur War, as former Soviet diplomat Victor Israelyan reveals in his new book *Inside the Kremlin During the Yom Kippur War*, Assad requested that the Soviets obtain an im-

Kissinger's solution was an unambiguous announcement: "In our view, the cease-fire covered guerrilla actions; if any took place, the US would support Israel politically if it retaliated." The military operations with which Israel responded to terrorist provocations (Operations Peace for Galilee, Accountability, and Grapes of Wrath) have

In snubbing Warren Christopher Assad was telling the Arab world: This is how to continue the struggle against Israel

mediate cease-fire in place.

When his army entered Lebanon in 1976, he asked for King Hussein's intervention to prevent a face-to-face confrontation with Israel. And during the Lebanon war in 1982, Assad was careful to localize the fighting, avoiding an all-out confrontation, even after our air force destroyed the Syrian missile batteries.

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taken the sting out of Kissinger's warning - which is why Assad couldn't find the time to talk to Christopher on Tuesday, leaving the secretary having to make do with Foreign Minister Shara.

Driven by the desire to achieve a cease-fire this week, the US is doing its utmost to minimize Assad's snub. But Assad is exploiting the incident to signal the terrorist organizations that they have won the duel between Hizbullah's primitive Katyushas and the IDF's sophisticated bombs.

The insult to Christopher was also Assad's method of telling the Arab world that this, and not the Sharm el-Sheikh conference, is the way to continue the struggle against Israel.

If - as Assad can infer from the US's activity - Israel wants a cease-fire to guarantee the security of Kiryat Shmona and Nahariya, it will have to pay Assad's price.

When Assad realized that he lacked a war option, he began to talk about a strategic decision for peace. But this doesn't mean negotiations free from terrorist pressure.

Quite the reverse: Assad intends to use terrorism to get the best deal he can for his country. This is why he categorically refuses to shut down the Damascus headquarters of the Palestinian terrorist organizations, and why he is making no attempt to restrain Hizbullah. Simply: They serve his interests.

The Americans are still trying to find a formula for a cease-fire which the Israeli government can sell its public. But Assad will do everything in his power to ensure that Hizbullah and Hamas, his tools in the negotiating process, retain a free hand.

Using constructive ambiguity, Warren Christopher may finally bring about a cease-fire declaration, but its durability will depend on the wishes of Teheran and Damascus, and its acceptance will depend on the face-saving formula the Israeli government can devise to present to voters a month before the elections.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

The new Zionists - Yisrael Ba'aliya

NATAN SHARANSKY

YISRAEL Ba'aliya believes that Israel's future depends on its ability to outgrow its role as a shelter for exiles and refugees, and to transform itself into a magnet for Jews. Our political party believes in the Ingathering of the Exiles not just because of the pressure of anti-Semitism, but because of the quality of life Israeli society has the potential to offer.

Even so, we hear accusations and misconceptions about our party again and again. Not by chance, these myths come in times when cabinet ministers have become lobbyists, when the school day has been cut to four hours, when housing prices are higher than those in Manhattan, when intolerance between left and right is flourishing, when the rift between religious and secular is expanding, when the stigmas against immigrants have reached unprecedented heights, and when civil rights are applied according to political opportunism.

"Your party is segregationist, fighting only for immigrants' interests."

Our platform addresses issues that matter to all the citizens of Israel - housing, education, taxes, and a free economy. We don't believe in building a separate country for immigrants; on the contrary, we believe in building the country as a whole.

We have seen how the demands of a variety of separatist groups - from kibbutzniks to building contractors to trade unions - have managed to marginalize other key issues. For example, since the beginning of the recent wave of immigration, there has not been one government meeting devoted to the strategy of bringing and absorbing one million people, an issue which really does touch everyone living here.

"You're not interested in security issues or the peace process; you're willing to sell off the Golan in exchange for favors."

On the contrary, we have consistently linked peace and security, resisting full-speed dives into the "New Middle East," as well as calls for halting the process altogether.

process with democracy and human rights, we have insisted on full compliance with all agreements, and proposed that the depth of concessions be related to the depth of democratization among our negotiating partners.

The fact that today both the Likud and Labor agree with us on the point of compliance - if not yet on the point of democracy - credits the platform we wrote half a year ago, well before the recent wave of terror. I can only hope that the other parties will be as firm as we in not selling off our national assets.

"You're the agent of the Likud." We didn't form a party to help either the right or the left. Among our activists are people who four years ago were among the leading

platform is just talk; big government is really what immigrants want."

Yes, we do want government-sponsored housing for the needy and the weak, as in capitalist societies like the US. But for the newcomer who arrives with ambition and skills, the biggest need is not how to get more from the government, but how to compete and contribute. He or she often finds that the narrow interests of the economy, the state monopolies, the banks and the Histadrut tend to suffocate talent and initiative. Israel must take the best and not the worst from capitalism and socialism.

"You prefer elitist education at the expense of the integration Israel has worked so hard to create."

It is the only party that still believes in the Ingathering of the Exiles

immigrant activists in Meretz, Labor, the Likud, the National Religious Party and Tehiya. All have managed to compromise in order to bring a new dimension to Israeli politics.

"You're an agent of the Labor Party." See above.

"You will conduct negotiations with whoever is elected as prime minister. After all, he'll be getting his mandate not from the Knesset, but from the people. Whether we will come to an agreement with him is another story."

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"You have no political experience, so it will be easy to buy you."

We know how to deal with both threats and bribes. Among the top members of our list, we have people who have spent more time in prison (before being elected to the Knesset, not after) and in resisting the pressure of a manipulative establishment than those in all the other parties together.

"You only want a bigger piece of the pie for your people. The talk of a free economy in your

primaries, the polarization of religious and non-religious politicians is nearly total, the top of our list combines, in almost equal proportions, visibly observant and non-observant Jews.

That's not because our voters are more religious, but rather, because it's not an issue for them; they haven't yet absorbed this particular prejudice.

"You are anti-Zionists, destroying the fabric of Israeli society."

We prefer to see ourselves as new Zionists. The old Zionism meant abandoning the traditions of the Diaspora, sacrificing individualism for the common good, and accepting the paternalism of the state.

One of its main goals was the "normalization" of the Jewish people, which is leading us to the post-Zionist era: denial of the special character of the Jewish state, and dismissal of the idea of an Ingathering of the Exiles.

Yisrael Ba'aliya is against such "normalization" of the state itself, but is in favor of normalizing the process of ingathering the exiles. Jews should come here not only when it's had for them in the Diaspora, but rather because they are drawn by Israel's opportunities, culture and the richness of life here. Who else among Israel's political parties is making this their priority?

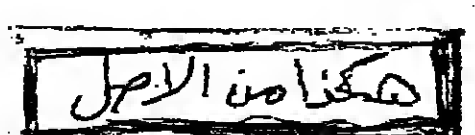
The writer is the leader of the Yisrael Ba'aliya Party.

POSTSCRIPT

DESPITE THE layers of sophistication Israel has acquired over the years, it seems we're not yet completely ready to discard our frontier image.

At a glittering Knesset reception held for 700 Israel Bonds delegates, one guest requested a glass of white wine. The barman responded with gusto: he seized a bottle of Semillon, poured it into a flourish into a - well, a juice tumbler, and handwashing silver tongs, asked if the lady would like it with ... ice.

Wendy Elliman



The Mideast mirage

WORKING closely together, the US administration and the Israeli government have created several important and lasting results out of the fighting in Lebanon. These results, every one of them, have been damaging to the military, political and just plain human interests of all three countries.

The constant emphasis on Syrian importance by Washington and Jerusalem, their failure to hold Syria responsible for the Hizbullah rocketing of Israel, and the incessant high-level American visits to Damascus have increased the present and future political power of a major enemy of America and Israel - President Assad of Syria. They have also cemented his occupation of Lebanon and the torment of its people.

And by making a peace treaty with Syria such an overriding goal that they reward its dictator for fomenting war, they lessen the chances of stability in the Mideast.

Stability rests on peaceful relations between Israel and some Arab peoples - particularly the Palestinians, Jordanians and Egyptians. It is the only sensible goal - different from the mirage of a complete regional peace settlement that obsesses the current governments in Washington and Jerusalem.

Bill Clinton and Shimon Peres have also managed to do something that American presidents and Israeli prime ministers had strenuously avoided. They opened the Mideast to the fox of political intervention by Russia, France and other countries eager for Arab contracts. Now, to crown these achievements, the US invites Syria to be an intermediary with Iran, its partner in igniting the wars in Lebanon.

A. M. ROSENTHAL

Plural - two wars are taking place in Lebanon. One is between Israel and the Hizbullah guerrillas. They started it by firing on Israeli civilians. Peres knew he would lose the May elections if he did not respond. If the conservative Likud had been in power and retaliated so hard, Washington and other capitals would have immediately screamed for its head.

THE OTHER war, not acknowledged by Israel and the US, is the proxy war of military and political attrition being fought against Israel by Syria, with the help of Iran and the Lebanese Hizbullah guerrillas they arm and command.

The Syrian victory became

Obsessed with a regional settlement, the governments in Washington and Jerusalem have done great damage

clear during the current wars, but its roots were planted in 1976 by Syria's occupation of Lebanon, which the world cruelly ignores. For four years, those roots have been watered by the US and Israeli governments.

After Labor won the 1992 election, Israel and the US took the traditional road to disaster - the empowerment, encouragement and appeasement of a dictatorial terrorist enemy nation.

Israel offered Syria the Golan Heights, which previous Labor and Likud governments had warned would endanger Israeli security, in exchange for a peace

treaty. Responsibility for this turn-about rests with Labor. But the US encouraged Jerusalem to treat Syria as a responsible peace partner - the same Syria listed as a terrorist drug-running nation by Washington.

This strengthening of Syrian influence by Washington and Jerusalem is as damaging to their long-range Mideast interests as the surrender of the Golan. Assad accomplished what Saddam Hussein tried to do - occupy a neighboring country. For this the punishment was not war, but respectful visits by the president and secretary of state.

Many of my American friends who warm to Israel bought the US-Israeli fantasy that, since Israelis could not stomach indefinite occupation rule over Palestinians, Israel had to have a peace treaty with Syria, even at the price of the Golan. They never managed to say why it was so important. Syria is supported mostly by Arabs irredeemable in their hatred of Israel. It is loathed by Arab governments that, officially or not, have already made peace with Israel.

Peres and Clinton can repair the damage they have done in giving the victory in Lebanon to the Syrian dictator. They can start by going loud and public about his record: aggression in Lebanon, terrorism at home and abroad, lighting the two Lebanese wars; then withdraw the offer of the Golan or any other bribe, and tell the Syrians to come back when they want peace and stability, not power and spoils.

Eventually, that will probably mean eliminating Assad - not an unbearable thought.

(Courtesy of The New York Times)



Divinely inspired, but wrong

AMOTZASA-EL

MOST Israelis would be surprised to learn that the term "Jerusalem of Gold" was coined not three decades ago by songwriter Naomi Shemer, but more than 1,800 years earlier by an infatuated Rabbi Akiva, who gave the name to a necklace he had made for his wife Rachel out of the precious metal.

Such romance stands in stark contrast to the prevalent, secular stereotype of hated rabbis in Jerusalem, Bnei Brak and New York.

More than that, it may serve to remind their Israeli disciples of voting age that even rabbis of monumental stature - let alone those currently scrutinizing various political alternatives for their flock - are only human beings, people whose wisdom in such matters is no better, indeed often worse, than others'.

Rabbi Akiva himself tragically concluded that Simon Bar-Kochba was the messiah. Ultimately, the Judean warrior's rebellion against Rome resulted not only in his and Akiva's execution, but also in the destruction and loss of the land which, to this day, the Jews are finding difficult to repossess.

In all fairness, Rabbi Akiva's view was challenged by some of his colleagues, according to the Talmud, and his biography is based on historically debatable sources.

But that can hardly be said of 17th-century rabbinical authorities who virtually unanimously joined in the contemporary messianic euphoria, failing to understand how states are crafted and preferring to believe that the lost Israelite tribes were about to arrive from beyond the River Sambaryon and enslave the Turkish sultan.

More recently, and far more tragically, most rabbis failed to under-

stand in time that their flocks had better flee Europe. In fact, all major features of 20th-century Jewish existence - potent European antisemitism, and the promise of a Jewish renaissance in America and Zion - were vehemently rejected by major rabbinical authorities.

"America is a land of lies and dreams," wrote the *Mahikel Ha-Das*, a Galician-based hassidic journal in 1899, at a time when less sophisticated but more sober Jews were voting with their feet, abandoning the decrepit, destitute, and intolerant Pale of Settlement for a

continent where they would be able to feed their families. The highly charismatic and authoritative Rabbi Yisrael Meir Ha-Cohen, better known as the Hafez Haim, wrote in 1893 that anyone who wanted to fulfill God's wishes should stay away from America, and that those who sailed there despite that advice should at least leave their children behind, make some money, and return.

"Beyond the sea are tornadoes, floods, and frost of 60°C," he said. "Surely such disasters represent God's wrath. Better to trust God, even if the material situation is bad; a Jew who decides to stay put where faith is more likely to be preserved, he will be rewarded."

As historian Arthur Hertzberg has shown, most rabbis joined in dis-

in rejecting America, rabbis were surely no more wrong than Theodor Herzl himself, who thought the New World - where he never set foot - would treat the Jews no better than the Old.

And those who rejected Herzl's prophetic assessment of European antisemitism were no worse analysts than urbane scholars like historian Simon Dubnow, an avowed believer in a Jewish future in Europe, who witnessed the deportation of Rig's Jews in 1941 and was shot dead - against that symbolic backdrop - by a Gestapo officer who had been his student.

Still, such secular misjudgment was never accompanied by pretensions of divine authority, as with rabbis, nor did it call for blind following. Jewish history is littered with glaringly ill-conceived and tragically followed rabbinical directives on matters political. And yet thousands of Israeli voters wait for the white smoke to emerge from Ashkenazi and Sephardi rabbinical conclaves so they will know what to do when they find themselves alone in the ballot box.

Before an Israeli who is haredi decides whom to support in these elections, wouldn't he do better to ponder the case of the rabbis who mistook Bar-Kochba and Shabbetai Zevi for the messiah, remember the rabbinical insistence that Jews stay put in antisemitic Europe and the rabbis who vehemently challenged emigration to America - and make up his own mind, for God's sake?

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper.

In letting their rabbis tell them how to vote, haredim are heeding people whose political acumen is dubious

notably rabbis Moshe Rheines and Avraham Yitzhak Kook.

Rabbi Elazar Shapira, the most prominent Hungarian rabbi of the 1930s, wrote in his *Dinei Torah* that there are three gates to hell: European heresy, America's lust for money, and the Zionist assault on Jerusalem.

Shapira himself personally and actively fought the Hebrew education system in his country. He died in 1937, soon before his flock, trapped by the Nazis, could only dream helplessly of Zionist Jerusalem and greedy America.

Today, of course, rabbinical Judaism thrives in both Israel and the US. But that is despite rather than because of timely or visionary rabbinical judgment of political-historical trends.

Case for civilian control

SHIMON Peres should have known better. A pupil of David Ben-Gurion's, he surely must share his mentor's ingrained reservations regarding the political acumen of professional soldiers. Yet, in perhaps his most fateful decision as prime minister, he accepted the erroneous assessment of the military, one the IDF was unqualified to make, regarding how long Hizbullah could hold out against Israel's military pressure.

This week, a battle to pin the blame raged within the army. Planted press reports alternately blamed the Intelligence Corps, Northern Command, Northern Command's Intelligence, or the General Staff itself.

Certainly it was the army's job to supply accurate information on which an assessment of Hizbullah's capabilities could be based. The assessment itself, however, demanded much more. It involved political and ideological factors, linked to parties beyond the immediate area of confrontation. Such an assessment far transcended the limits of military expertise.

When there is a mix of capabilities and intentions, much more than a professional military judgment is involved. There is a parallel in the misreading of Egyptian moves in the pre-Yom Kippur War period. Perhaps the most fateful error in the Lebanon war of 1982 was the erroneous assessment of what the Christian Phalangists could and would do, the foundation of the strategic blunder which took the army to Beirut.

The Agrasat Commission, which investigated the Yom Kippur War blunder, recommended the establishment of a national security council where knowledgeable civilians would share in strategic decision-making. This recommendation has yet to be implemented.

Instead, there seems to be a routinization of bureaucratic thought patterns, typical of any large organization.

The IDF's last major foray into Lebanon, Operation Accountability in 1993, was far from a striking success. And while there was an element of innovation in the current operation, widening the area of attack, the major response to the earlier experience was to do what bureaucrats generally do - upgrade the technology and do more of the same.

IN THE West generally, and the US in particular, strategy is an area invaded, indeed dominated, by civilians. That is where Henry Kissinger established his professional reputation, long before his rise to public office. Most of the significant writings on strategy produced since World War II have come from

ALLEN E. SHAPIRO

civilians. The leading American academic authority on civilian-military relations has pointed out that the civilian experts are often contemptuous of military officers for their backwardness and ignorance.

In conventional theory, the professionalized role of the military is considered a bulwark of civilian control. As a professional, the soldier has neither a right nor an obligation to intervene in political decision-making. His job is to provide the politicians with a variety of pro-

Should a former career soldier be defense minister?

fessionally grounded options from which to choose.

Did the military perform this professional role in the decision-making process that led to Operation Grapes of Wrath? There are far too many indications that this campaign was something the army had to get out of its system. Before the campaign began, there were reports that the army could not be restrained much longer. After it had begun, Brig.-Gen. Giora Inbar, liaison officer to the South Lebanese Army, made the unfortunate remark to journalists that the army could not be

stopped by the prime minister before it had reached its goal.

Restoring civilian control of the military requires a clear understanding of the limits of military professionalism. Nevertheless, there appears to be a general expectation in both major political camps that the next defense minister should have a professional military background. In Labor, former chief of general staff Ehud Barak is the leading candidate for the post; in the Likud, it is Ariel Sharon or Rafael Eitan.

This would be a major step in the wrong direction. Lines of authority and responsibility would again become blurred, as they were under Moshe Dayan in the Yom Kippur War debacle, and as they have been under Ezer Weizman, Sharon, and Yitzhak Rabin.

The ideal, in a liberal democracy, is that of a professional army under the control of democratically chosen civilians.

When the US Department of Defense was created after World War II with the unification of the armed forces, the law initially disqualified professional soldiers from serving as secretary of defense.

If there is a lesson to be learned from our recent history, it is that there are limits to the use of force, and limits to the professional judgment of those skilled in its employment.

The writer comments on legal and political affairs.

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China, Russia hail friendship

JANE MACARTNEY
BEIJING

RUSSIAN President Boris Yeltsin and his Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin raised a champagne toast yesterday as they pledged a strategic 21st century partnership and warned the West not to try to dominate the post-Cold War world.

"I can't name a single question on which we would have different opinions," Yeltsin told Jiang in a morning meeting in Beijing's Stalinist-style Great Hall of the People.

The two cemented their blossoming ties by signing a joint communique, setting up a telephone hotline linking their two capitals and signing 13 other agreements, and said they hoped to sign an agreement to cut border troops as soon as possible.

Yeltsin and Jiang, under mounting international pressure over territorial disputes, seized the opportunity to tell the West to mind its own business and not to seek domination of the post-Cold War world. They stopped short of forging a new axis.

The People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation hereby announce their resolve to develop a strategic partnership of equality, mutual confidence and mutual coordination towards the 21st century," their communique said.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin exchange documents at yesterday's signing ceremony. (Reuters)

The two men raised champagne glasses to toast an accord that diplomats said marked the apex of ties since the Sino-Soviet alliance collapsed in the 1960s amid rivalry for ideological supremacy of

the communist world and border clashes.

Diplomats said the clink of champagne glasses did not herald a new Sino-Russian axis because the two harbored deep mutual suspi-

cions after a quarter-century freeze in ties that ended in the mid-1980s.

Talks also focused on security issues, with Jiang revealing that Beijing was negotiating with Moscow to cut troops along both

sides of their 4,300-km border and hoped to reach an accord soon.

"China is not posing, and will not pose in the future, any threat to Russia," Jiang told Yeltsin. (Reuters)

New Chechen rebel boss vows revenge for Dudayev

URUS MARTAN DISTRICT, Russia (Reuters) - Chechnya's new rebel leader pledged yesterday to avenge his slain predecessor Dzhokhar Dudayev and said he would press on with the region's drive for independence.

Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, speaking at a secret location in Chechnya, also said there would be no peace talks with Moscow until it was clear who was responsible for Dudayev's death.

"From the moment I took over I've been under pressure from field commanders and people demanding revenge," Yandarbiyev said. "I ordered them to control that mood... so that a just revenge against the organizers and perpetrators of this act can be carried out... without harming peaceful people."

Yandarbiyev, Dudayev's vice president in the self-proclaimed

Republic of Ichkeria, was named rebel leader on Tuesday, two days after Dudayev was killed in a rocket attack while speaking on a satellite telephone.

Asked if the separatists had strength to continue their battle for independence, Yandarbiyev said: "We can carry this war on permanently, continuously, until this land is freed."

"The tragedy of Russia's leaders is that they cannot understand the truth, that a war for freedom cannot be stopped."

Yandarbiyev said compromise with Moscow was still possible, but the issue of negotiations would be suspended until it was clear whether politicians from Moscow were involved in the attack on Dudayev and, if so, who was responsible.

Asked if future actions could extend to Russian territory, he did not exclude the possibility but

added: "We will have to take into account that Russia will call it a terrorist act."

Russia's hawkish Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told interfax news agency in Beijing that Moscow feared a surge of Chechen "terrorism" in revenge for the killing of Dudayev. Grachev is accompanying President Boris Yeltsin on a state visit to China.

He said the Kremlin leader, who ordered troops into Chechnya in December 1994 to crush its independence drive, had instructed "the heads of all power structures to take every measure to prevent a possible outbreak of terrorism by Chechen fighters." "Over 30,000 people, mostly civilians, are believed to have died in the Chechen conflict which Yeltsin is trying to end to boost his chances of winning a second term as president."

Prosecution: Guru praised disciples after subway gas attack

TOKYO (AP) - A cult guru fed sweet rice cakes and juice to disciples after they carried out last year's Tokyo subway gas attack and said the killings would win them heavenly blessing, prosecutors charged yesterday.

In the second day of a trial that has riveted the nation, prosecutors laid out their case against guru Shoko Asahara, whose Aum Shinri Kyo cult is accused of the March 1995 attack that killed 12 and sickened thousands.

Prosecutors said in a 99-page opening statement that Asahara ruled his apocalyptic cult with an iron hand, and once quietly listened to the screams of a member being strangled on his orders.

After the nerve gas killings, Asahara praised followers who carried out the crime when they reported back to him, and he welcomed them with sweet rice cakes and juice, the prosecution's statement said.

In accusing Asahara of ordering the strangulation of a wayward follower, prosecutors said the cult leader preached that his commands were akin to the word of God.

"If a guru orders murder, that person... has already reached a time to die," they quoted Asahara as telling his followers.

Police: Failed London bomb may be UK's largest

LONDON (Reuters) - Two suspected Irish Republican Army bombs that failed to explode under one of London's busiest bridges probably contained the most high explosive ever used on the British mainland, police said yesterday.

Police said the bombs, left in two briefcase-style boxes under Hammersmith Bridge in southwest London, contained upwards of 14 kilos of high explosives.

The detonators went off without setting off the bombs at 9:50 p.m. on Wednesday. No one was hurt as police had cleared the area after two telephone warnings. No one claimed responsibility but police presumed the IRA planted the bombs.

An explosives expert said that if the bombs had been properly detonated they could have brought down the bridge, used by tens of

thousands of commuters every day.

"This is probably the largest amount of high explosives ever to have been placed on the mainland," a police spokesman said.

"These would have caused a very large explosion and there is no doubt that this was meant to kill, cause injury and major structural damage."

Detectives initially thought the bombs were warning shots by the IRA to mark the 80th anniversary of the Easter Uprising against British forces in Dublin, one of the hallowed events in the history of Irish rebellion.

But the size of the bombs suggested the guerrilla group, which broke a 17-month cease fire with a huge blast in February in east London, was ready to step up its armed campaign to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Actress Margot Kidder taken to psychiatric ward after being found dazed, disheveled

GLENDALE, California (AP) - US actress Margot Kidder was in a psychiatric ward after being found dazed, dazed and fearful in a stranger's back yard, claiming she had been stalked and assaulted.

Police said they found no evidence of foul play, and took the

47-year-old actress to the hospital, where she was ordered held for three days for observation. Tests showed no sign of drugs or alcohol in her system.

Last May, Kidder's *Superman* co-star, Christopher Reeve, was paralyzed from the neck down.

Bidding frenzy on Jacqueline Onassis's possessions

NEW YORK (AP) - A bidder paid \$2.9 million for Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis' 40-carat diamond engagement ring, and another yesterday even shelled out \$200,000-plus for fake pearls.

"It's incredible!" said *New York Post* gossip columnist Cindy Adams, who bowed out of the bidding for cuff bracelets that went for \$167,500 on Wednesday. "It's insane! At auctions you're supposed to get good prices!"

A triple strand of fake pearls (pre-sale estimate: \$500-\$700) immortalized by a photograph of a young son of President John Kennedy playing with them as his mother, Jacqueline Kennedy, laughs sold for \$211,500.

The winning bid came by phone from the Franklin Mint, a company that specializes in collectible reproductions and promised to put the pearls on display in its museum.

The price a mystery bidder paid Wednesday for the 40-carat diamond engagement ring from shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis, whom Jacqueline married after the assassination of President Kennedy, was the highest so far in the four-day auction of the former first lady's belongings. The marquise-shaped, near-

flawless diamond had been valued at \$500,000 to \$600,000.

Earlier, a desk President Kennedy used to sign the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963 sold for \$1.43 million. Another ring purchased by Kennedy for his wife but never given to her sold for \$415,000.

Mrs. Onassis died in 1994. Her will directed her children, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg and John F. Kennedy Jr., and the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, to choose whatever they wanted from her possessions, then sell the rest. Proceeds were to go to her estate.

The running total after two days of the four-day sale was \$20.8 million, far exceeding Sotheby's extremely conservative estimate for the entire auction of \$3.3 million to \$4.6 million.

Sotheby's based the estimates on the intrinsic value of the objects - few of which were antiques or unusual works of art - rather than on who owned them. "This is one for the history books," said Diana Brooks, Sotheby's president and chief executive officer.

The sale was to end today with the auction of a 1992 BMW sedan.

NY subway gunman must pay victim \$43m

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Bernhard Goetz, who became famous as New York City's "subway vigilante," was ordered by a jury on Tuesday to pay \$43 million to one of the victims he critically wounded in a racially charged shooting more than a decade ago.

The all black and Hispanic civil court jury deliberated six hours before deciding that Goetz must pay Darrell Cabey, who has been brain damaged and partially paralyzed since the December 12, 1984, shooting. Cabey, now 30, had sought \$50 million.

In 1987, a mostly white criminal court jury acquitted Goetz of assault and attempted murder charges, but he spent eight months in jail for carrying an illegal weapon.

By law, lawyers for Cabey can seek up to 10 percent of his income for 20 years. Goetz will not appeal the jury's verdict, his attorney said.

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NEWS IN FOCUS

The Jerusalem Post Friday, April 26, 1996

Covenant headed for overhaul

Yasser Arafat's commanding majority to amend the charter comes as a surprise, Jon Immanuel reports

IN the end there was no contest. PLO chairman Yasser Arafat emerged this week from the 21st session of the Palestinian National Council once again as the only mover and shaker in Palestinian politics.

Few expected Arafat to have the commanding majority he needed to amend the Palestinian charter or to have it in such a short time. But Arafat saved himself time by making a general statement revoking all the clauses that contradicted agreements with Israel and referring the charter to a legal committee for amendment.

At best, it had been thought, the resolution would scrape through with the minimum necessary 67% majority after days of angry debate. In fact, 504 - 75% of the membership and 88% of those present - supported it with almost no debate.

The opposition was relegated to the margins, and many of the 68 who voted against or abstained could hardly be considered opponents of change.

"We support amendment of the charter. We released a statement saying so, but we thought it took place at the wrong time. You can't ask people to amend the charter under Israeli duress," said PNC member Ziad Abu Amr, a political-science professor. With former pre-Oslo negotiators Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi and Hanan Ashrawi, he issued a six-point demand that Israel lift the closure, open safe passages, release prisoners and fulfill other outstanding issues before Palestinians go all the way.

But, conceded Abu Amr, Arafat was a persuasive organizer and a seductive speaker during Wednesday's closed session. For those who have listened to Arafat through countless jingoist rooftop barangues in one liberated Palestinian town after another, this is truly a surprise.

Arafat concentrated on one argument: Those who conditioned changing the amendment on Israeli concessions were not bringing a Palestinian state closer but moving it further away.

He made his pitch not to local



Palestine National Council member Mohammed Abu Abbas, center, raises his hand with other PNC members during the PNC's meeting in Gaza that voted 504-75 to revoke all clauses in the 1964 PLO founding charter that call for the liquidation of Israel. (AP)

Palestinians but to the PNC delegates who had stepped onto Palestinian soil for the first time since 1967 days or even hours before the PNC meeting. They were thought to be the least amenable to change. "Where do you want to be buried, nowhere or in Palestine?" Arafat shouted.

That and not his swaggering assurance the night before that "those who opposed a Palestinian state could drink Gaza seawater" is what really got to the guts of the matter.

Arafat from the hard-core opponents of change like the Popular Front and Democratic Front hardliners who flew in to guard Palestinian ideological purity against all comers, local opponents were looking over their shoulders at popular opinion. Popular sentiment, focused on the here and now, has been pretty cool to Israel lately.

Abdel-Shafi and his followers wanted to build a challenge to Arafat's autocratic grip and make Palestinian politics and society more democratic. A sizable no vote Wednesday would have given them a boost. "We knew Arafat would not have called the PNC meeting if he was not assured victory, but we had hoped for 100 votes," said Abu

Amr. The vote was taken by a show of hands. "Many who voted with Arafat were almost ashamed to say it." Still, Abu Amr conceded, the result was "democratic and fair."

Now that Arafat has pulled the PNC with him, the question is where does this actually leave the covenant. "It is not valid anymore," said PNC speaker Salim Zamoum.

But it is not quite dead. Rather it is in a garage from which it will emerge around November with several new parts to streamline it as the Palestinian vehicle for final negotiations. Arguments are likely to ensue in Israel among those who say that the amendments are not enough and ask why it has to take six months. Will the PNC legal committee revoke the 10 explicit calls for the destruction of Israel, and are these enough when there are another dozen negative references to Israel? It is possible that the PNC legal committee will increase or decrease the number of articles it is prepared to change in accordance with the progress of final-status negotiations.

Even if everything goes smoothly it will not reflect anything new in practice. But it will make an inviolable principle, again subject to a

two-thirds PNC vote, the current Palestinian demand for a Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem.

It is not impossible that a hard core, with radical Islamists at the center, will simply carry out bomb attacks against Israel as soon as negotiations get stuck, saying they are defending the new covenant.

It is also possible that far from persuading Palestinians in the street who feel burdened by the closure that Israel and Palestinians are now destined to live in harmony, ordinary Palestinians will feel the closure as painfully as a woman scorned. Collective punishment, as they see it, for the terrorism of a few, will be less tolerable than before. Hermetic separation and a half-empty larder will not enhance their view of a Jewish state which exploits its growing acceptability to gallivant in the more glamorous bazaars of the Middle East with wealthier and more enticing courtesans.

Indeed the sanctity with which Israel treated the warts of the charter has given Palestinians the impression that Israel was willing to pay dearly for the change. In fact the government demanded the change mainly for Israeli public

opinion. On the political right, there have been many hard-voiced Palestinian watchers who have said, "I'll accept Oslo when they change the covenant," convinced it would not happen.

That alone explains why some highly intelligent Palestinian politicians, who understand Israelis better than others, thought they could use a right to destroy Israel, which they themselves consider laughable, to negotiate Israeli concessions.

Normally parties to treaties are accused of not acting according to their words. In this case, Palestinians were accused of not matching their words to fit their actions, top Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath said in a recent lecture. Slightly surprised by the importance Israel attached to the charter.

This view was supported by Communications Minister Shlomo Aloni.

The person who did most to publicize the charter among Palestinians was my friend Yehoshafat Harkabi who later regretted it," she said on Israel Radio referring to the late academic and military intelligence chief who (Continued on Page 20)

PLO finally concedes Israel is here to stay

The PNC's decision to amend its covenant heralds the end of the 'old' Arab-Israeli conflict, claims Barry Rubin

By rescinding most of its charter this week, the Palestine National Council (PNC) has posed a paradox to both sides to the Arab-Israeli peace process.

If, as many Palestinians claimed, the covenant was no longer a matter of great importance given today's changed circumstances, why was it so hard and emotionally painful for them to change it?

And if, as Israeli opponents of the current process claim, the covenant - in effect, the PLO's constitution - was of critical importance in that it revealed the PLO's true nature, how can they not now acknowledge that organization's profound transformation into a partner which genuinely wants to make peace through compromise?

The covenant, which was the central document in the history of the PLO and the Palestinian nationalist movement, stated clearly principles, views and policies which made peace impossible for many decades:

- Israel must be destroyed.
- The Palestinian Arabs must rule the entire land between the Jordan river and the Mediterranean.
- Armed struggle should be the sole tactic to achieve this.
- Relying on pan-Arab nationalism, persuading Arab states to fight Israel to the end, was the only strategic choice.

FROM its founding in 1964 up to 1988, the PLO clung to these tenets. Hardly a single dissenting voice was to be heard. But at the 1988 meeting of the PNC, talk of serious but tentative change began. By signing its agreement with Israel in 1993, the path down that alternative road was clearly

taken. This week in Gaza, the decree was sealed.

This development's importance cannot be overstated. To date, the central question in the conflict has been whether the Arab side would abandon the stance embodied in the covenant. The Palestinian people's fate was the second issue. Yet this problem could not be solved until the conflict was redefined from one of deciding whether Israel had a right to exist, to seeking a two-state solution.

There are many on both sides who still do not accept this new approach. But the PNC's decision will surely increase both the peace process's momentum and public support for it. While PLO and Palestinian Authority chief Yasser Arafat still has much work to do in rallying his people, his firm leadership in Gaza is a big step in this direction.

Being put on the defensive, Arafat's opponents claimed they only rejected changes in order to extract more concessions from Israel. In reality, though, they simply continued to adhere to their headline ideas. For the Popular Front and the Democratic Front, this was a last stand. Hamas - not the neo-Marxists of the 1970s - is now the critical anti-Arafat force.

Another less visible factor is the decisive shift toward dominance by Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza over exiles, and for the PA over the PLO or PNC.

Just three years ago, not a single member of the PLO Executive Committee or Fatah's Central Committee lived there. The arrival of several hundred PNC delegates, with Israel's approval, continues a geographic shift which is of major political significance. Those who must deal with practical problems are replacing (Continued on Page 20)

Haven't we seen this show before?

Yigal Carmon doubts we've seen the end of the infamous Palestinian Covenant

AFTER two and a half years of postponements and delays, the PLO finally made a historic decision: to postpone it again...

The Palestine National Council (PNC), the PLO executive committee, its judicial committee and its other bodies have had two and a half years to decide which clauses in the covenant are incompatible with their agreement with Israel. The PNC also had four full days to debate and vote, and then announce: "Clauses 2, 8, 9, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, etc." - according to Israel there are 28 such clauses, the PLO could have suggested fewer - "are canceled."

No more, but also no less. This the PNC has not done. Instead, the pledge has been repeated: the PLO has truly, sincerely, definitely decided to do it.

Hallelujah. The PNC has even absolutely, firmly and unequivocally decided on the mechanism for the implementation of the decision: a judicial committee will make the recommendations. Nor will the committee act in a vacuum.

It will have, believe it or not, a guiding principle: every clause which contradicts the agreement with Israel will be canceled and replaced by a new clause.

Only one small, perhaps excruciatingly petty problem remains: When will all this happen?

Not clear. No time has been set. But the committee will have the authority to finalize this, once and for all, right? After all, there is already a decision in principle!

Well, not exactly. The committee will first have to present its recommendations to the PLO central council.

When? At its first meeting. But when, who will that happen? No one knows. But surely this will be the end of it, right? Not quite. Such historic decisions will presumably be submitted again to the PNC for discussion, debate and confirmation.

And when will that happen? There you go again with these pesky, petty questions. It will happen when it convenes.

But, wait a minute. Didn't it convene this week precisely for this purpose?

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IDF must weigh public's willingness to sacrifice

The army is looking over its shoulder at public opinion, which, Arieh O'Sullivan reports, is having an impact on its operations

It happens to the best of countries. The more affluent the people become, the less willing they are to sacrifice their sons for nonexistent threats to the state. But is this hypersensitivity to casualties actually crippling the IDF's ability to wage war and plan the nation's defense?

Residents in the north demanded retaliation against Hizbullah and the IDF responded with artillery barrages and air raids. It pushed troops and tanks to the border in full view of the cameras in a psychological war aimed at pushing half a million Lebanese northward as a pressure tactic for reaching a cease-fire.

But the IDF never intended to use its ground forces. It never planned a ground offensive of any kind. Its mighty armor and infantry is severely cobbled when it comes to fighting Hizbullah. Not because the army knows you don't fight guerrillas on their own turf with columns of armor and divisions of troops. And not because its highly-trained combat troops would refuse to charge if the bugle blew. Virtually all of the frontline troops interviewed in south Lebanon said they were willing to press on after Hizbullah, if ordered.

The order never came. Operation Grapes of Wrath was planned from the beginning as a limited strike against Hizbullah using sophisticated artillery and air attacks, keeping its troops well out of the way of injury.

"A ground offensive is very inciting. It is something they [Hizbullah] are waiting for. But we have to fight them where we have the clear advantage. We were in Beirut [in the 1982 war] and there were no Katyushas, but we paid a different price and the price made us get out of there," said a very senior IDF officer.

"They cannot feel for a moment that we are not prepared to send in ground forces, that this option is excluded. Because if they feel this way, they will put all their efforts into firing Katyushas. Their sui-

cide terrorists will be trying to fire Katyushas instead of waiting to ambush our tanks. They should wait for the tanks, so we can't give them the impression that a ground offensive is totally out of the picture," the officer added.

BUT HOW much of this tactical decision was based on a conception that Israel is hypersensitive to casualties and that this hypersensitivity in effect kept that option off the planning books?

It is not that the army fears its troops won't fight. The soldiers are most willing, for their own manly and patriotic reasons, to prove themselves in battle. The IDF most certainly does not lack motivation.

"There is pressure burning from below. The troops are wound up and want action, both for Zionist reasons but also because of a sort of machismo. We've trained and, as all soldiers, want to prove ourselves." Lt.-Col. D., a battalion commander in south Lebanon, said last week. "But this is a guerrilla war. You don't go in with tanks and divisions of infantry because there is no army facing you."

"Also I suppose we aren't going to be sent in so quickly, because we still haven't gotten over 'Lebanon Syndrome.'"

"The army exists in order to fight, not for making parades," a very senior IDF commander said.

"When we have to fight we do, but even in a war in every attack we have to examine the best way to do it, and one of the considerations is what you want to achieve versus what you see as reasonable risks."

"We are extremely careful and doing our utmost so there won't be casualties on our side," the senior officer said.

THE CHANGING, upward spiraling society of Israel in 1996 is becoming one of individualism and personal gratification. There is more "me" and less "we," which is starting to be reflected itself in the IDF.

Parents no longer send their chil-

dren to the IDF without question. Unlike a generation ago, parents today have been there and if a soldier is killed, they won't take it quietly as their parents may have done. Today, they will go to the attorney-general to challenge the army's version.

To its credit, the military is aware of this attitude. For the first time, the IDF's Planning Branch has included changes in society among the top five factors influencing long-range security planning.

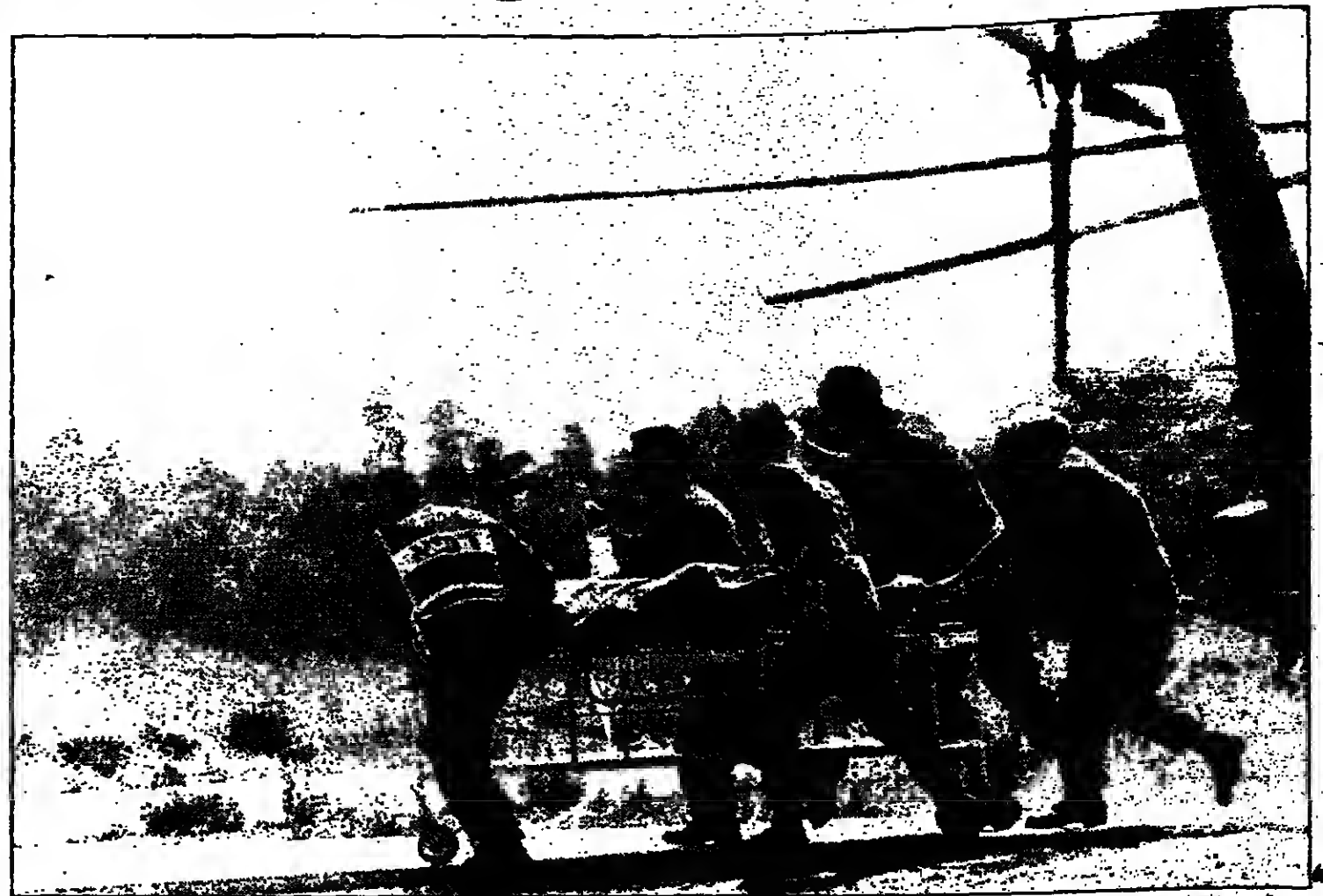
"Once, when we were young and beautiful, we were the mortar between the bricks," said a senior IDF officer involved in planning. "Today, the individual is no longer the mortar, but the brick itself. But the undertaking of this self-development is legitimate. I am trying hard not to judge this. I think this atmosphere is fitting. This is true for reservists, for conscripts and for the parents who send their children to the army."

"The defense establishment today is much more exposed to parents, to the media and to lobbies," the senior officer said. "The defense establishment is also involved in the peace process, which is a controversial topic itself. On one hand, this process has created expectations which have not yet been fulfilled, and on the other hand there are those opposed to the direction the process is taking. We find ourselves in between."

The senior officer stressed that while the defense apparatus was "strong and influential," it should refrain from setting the norms and, instead, follow society's lead.

It is not that the willingness to sacrifice has diminished, it has just changed.

"ISRAELIS WANT instant gratification," said Col. Ra'anan Gissin, an IDF spokesman. "They are willing to make tremendous short-term sacrifices, but they want the payoff now. We want peace now. We want a short-term war to end now. We want peace with Jordan and the



Fear of casualties is one factor in the decision not to use ground forces in Operation Grapes of Wrath. Here, IDF medics care for a soldier after he was wounded in Lebanon last year. (Arieh Shapiro/Israel Sun)

Palestinians to shorten our service now. Perhaps, this comes from the impact of cable TV or growing affluence.

"When it comes down to it, Israelis are great sprinters, but awful marathon runners," Gissin said.

The question is how much it affects the army. In the short term, it doesn't, Gissin said, because the army knows it can count on highly motivated troops. But in the long term, IDF planners are increasingly taking into account changes in the public's willingness to make the sacrifices of conscription.

Asher Arian has run opinion surveys for the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies' project on national security and public opinion in Israel, which he heads. His polls have shown consistent public

support for a stable or increased defense budget over the past decade. He said about 60% believe the budget was appropriate, with about 30% responding that it should be increased. Less than 10% felt it should be reduced.

"There would be a solid base of support for increasing the security budget if the government chose to make that move. But the country has to be convinced that the increase of budget will also increase the security which can be bought," said Arian, a professor of political science at Haifa University.

Arian said this was also the case when it came to the public's willingness to make the human sacrifices for state security. This was manifested not only in the willingness to serve in the regular

army or perform reserve duty, but in the readiness to increase the time served should the need be there.

"IN A sense, the individualism and openness of Israeli society impacts on the security considerations, but the security situation has also improved and that goes together," Arian said.

Prime Minister and Defense Minister Peres has repeatedly said he was the leader who removed the IDF from the mid of Lebanon and would not be the one to order the troops back. But he is speaking on the eve of an election and a costly offensive there now would surely harm his chances if casualties started to mount.

"The last thing the political

leadership needs before an election is casualties," Arian said. "What is happening is that people are more and more aware of the complexities of reaching goals based on military force. They see that political moves are equally important and, furthermore, that they are free."

In Patrick Seal's biography of Hafez Assad, he asks the Syrian president to name Israel's strategic strengths. Assad lists the IDF's military might, the strategic relationship with the US, Israel's qualitatively superior technology and its nuclear arsenal.

When asked what Israel's weakness was, Assad said: "The Israelis as individuals, and as a society as a whole, cannot stand pass for a long time. We can. That is our advantage."

THOMAS McInerney sees himself as a typical senior US military officer. 35 years in the Air Force, 24 of them overseas. But what he's seen of the Israeli military has turned him into its biggest booster.

"The professionalism I've seen in the IDF is the highest I've seen in any nation," says McInerney, who retired as lieutenant-general and No. 3 in the US Air Force in 1994. "They have political acumen. You're very lucky to have such military men."

Prime Minister and Defense Minister Shimon Peres hopes he'll meet many like McInerney in the Pentagon when he visits the US next week. Peres, who will be in Washington on Sunday and Tuesday, comes with a shopping list

of requests meant to catapult the US-Israel strategic relationship into a new hemisphere.

Peres is seeking a level of cooperation that will place Israel on the level of a strategic partner with the US in a variety of areas while ensuring that Washington will guarantee Israel's security in the long term. The goal was set in March in the wake of the Hamas bombings of Israeli buses and the anti-terrorism conference at Sharm el-Sheikh.

"Peres's idea is to capitalize on the warm feelings within the Clinton administration," a senior official says. "He sees an opportunity here to obtain a range of things for Israel that he might never get again."

One area of cooperation Peres hopes to achieve with the US is in anti-missile defense. The US currently is funding 40 percent of a

Looking beyond Clinton

PM Peres hopes to capitalize on White House support when he brings defense proposals to Washington, Steve Rodan reports

\$500 million program to develop the Arrow missile, which is aimed at intercepting and destroying incoming missiles.

Israeli and US officials have been working on a draft memorandum that would formalize cooperation in all areas of anti-missile defense. This would include the development of systems in the US and Israel that could work in tandem.

Such cooperation with Israel should comprise intelligence, early warning and even responses to an enemy missile attack in the Middle East. This would prevent a repetition of the situation during the 1991 Gulf war when Washington rejected Israeli requests to attack Scud launchers in western Iraq out of concern that Israeli warplanes would clash with Allied fighters in the area.

"The worst nightmare in the Pentagon has been that we would shoot missiles [against an enemy] and Israelis would shoot missiles and we end up killing each other," a US defense analyst, who does not want to be identified, says. "So we have to decide electronically who goes after what with which weapons."

ISRAELI officials also want US investment in several currently small anti-missile defense programs. They include the Boost Phase Intercept program, in which lasers or missiles destroy incoming missiles in the early stage of their launch while they are still in enemy

territory. The current congressional budget for this program is up to \$15m, but Israeli defense sources say at least \$150m will be needed to make a BPI system operational.

"This is an area where we both benefit," says McInerney, who arrived in Israel as part of a delegation of an influential Washington-based group called Business Executives for National Security. "The kind of money we're talking about is not great."

A more important program for the Israelis is the Nautilus, a joint US-Israel program which was out of funds in September. The project aims at destroying short-range rockets, such as Katyushas, with a burst of laser energy.

When the Nautilus laser succeeded in destroying Katyushas in tests in February, the Israeli response was low-key. But since Operation Grapes of Wrath, in which some 600 Katyushas have been fired toward Israel, Defense

Ministry officials have become enthusiastic supporters of the program.

"In the last few weeks, the Nautilus has become a focus of efforts to push the Clinton administration to give money to make it a real system," a defense source says. "Politically, this has become our most important priority."

Israeli defense officials say the goal is to obtain the Pentagon's agreement for a \$150m. Nautilus program that would complete two prototypes of the laser missile interception system by mid-1998. Currently, the US Army has already spent its \$3m. budgeted for Nautilus in fiscal 1996.

Israeli diplomatic sources say they're confident the money can be obtained, despite what they acknowledge will be efforts to cut the US defense budget. They say Congress supports both BPI and Nautilus, the latter prompting enthusiasm. (Continued on Page 10)

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Chairman: Prof. Ezra Sohar
- 16.10 Prof. Eli Pollak - Chairman of Israel's Media Watch
"The Struggle for Fair and Accurate Media".
- 16.30 Dr. Ilan Avissar - Tel-Aviv University
"Israeli Media - Establishment, Politics, Ideology".
- 16.50 Mr. David Bar-Ilan - Editor of "Jerusalem Post"
"Obligation of the Media in a Democratic Country".
- 17.10 Dr. Yuval Steinitz - Haifa University
"Positive and Negative Effects of the Media on Democracy".
- 17.30 Prof. Moshe Sharon - The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
"The Arab Media After The Oslo Agreements".
- 17.50 Discussion
- 18.10 Break, Refreshments
- 18.45 Session II: PSI ACTIVITIES TOWARDS THE ELECTIONS
Prof. Israel Hanukoglu - Chairman of PSI
Prof. Tsvi Ophir - Treasurer of PSI
Annual Report.
- 19.00 **MK BENJAMIN NETANYAHU**
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"The National Camp Towards The Future".
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Chernobyl fallout: When the unthinkable occurred



Ten years after the meltdown of Ukraine's nuclear reactor, D'vora Ben Shaul takes a look at some of the lessons that can be learned from the disaster

TEN years have passed since the nuclear reactor in Chernobyl in Ukraine exploded and a meltdown of its core sent plumes of radioactivity into the atmosphere. The incident had been predicted and feared from the beginning of experiments to harness nuclear energy for the production of electricity. Now, the unthinkable had actually happened.

But now, a decade later, the time has come for us to dwell less on what happened than to assess just what was learned from this frightful experience. And the fact is that what happened at Chernobyl taught us a lot of things and perhaps offered us other lessons that we may or may not have absorbed.

The first lesson learned was just how little was actually known or could be predicted concerning exactly how clouds of radioactive elements would behave. It turned out in the end that few of the predictions were correct and that what had been offered as a scenario was more imagination than fact.

A number of factors had been ignored, one of them being what would happen if the emission of these dangerous materials was followed immediately by strong winds and heavy rains. Certainly no one predicted that the emission would cover not only large parts of Ukraine, but Finland and the Baltic States, or that it would contaminate a large percentage of the grazing grounds in Scotland. And certainly no one

imagined that this contaminated cloud would also leave its radioactive materials on fields in Corsica, down into the Middle East where the rains a few days later would so contaminate soil here that it would be more than three years before the background radioactivity would return to normal.

No one predicted it, but that is exactly what occurred, and certainly no one considered the possibility that contamination in areas many kilometers from the stricken reactor would have a higher level of contamination than did many places far closer to ground zero. But that, too, was something we learned the hard way.

Another lesson was that statements issued by the nuclear industry and/or the governments involved were not to be taken too seriously. As could only have been expected when such vital vested interests were at stake, every effort was made to downplay the seriousness of the event. And any resemblance between the assessments of the nuclear industry and the former USSR and what we have since learned

to be true is so slight as to be laughable. In this case, the so-called doomsayers — the epidemiologists and the environmentalists — were far closer to the mark than the official assessments.

When we come to the much speculated upon subject of cleaning up such contamination, we really learned just how little we really knew. Cost estimates were 10 times too low for the price paid for the clean-up, attempts to isolate the damaged reactor were not too successful, and no one predicted the number of people who received lethal doses of radioactivity in the clean-up process.

No one had even a close estimate as to how long contaminated areas would remain contaminated but now, a decade later, grazing lands in Scotland and reindeer grazing areas in Lapland are still too radioactive to allow the production of meat for human consumption. Vast agricultural areas of Ukraine are still unsuitable for food production and a few months ago the Ukrainian Minister of Agriculture told reporters that

"we know this land should not be farmed, but if we don't farm it and use the produce we will simply starve."

Meanwhile, the reactor, entombed in its sarcophagus of reinforced concrete, continues to threaten the entire area and perhaps half the world, for after a series of attempted repairs and reinforcements, it is still leaking its deadly contents into the surrounding area.

But of all the things that we did not know about, one of the most outstanding was just how deadly the effects of what were termed light or non-dangerous amounts of radiation would be on children.

Certainly only a few predicted that thousands of infants and children who were exposed to what was then assessed as "one-time, low-level radioactive exposure" and was considered to be probably insignificant would develop thyroid problems that threaten many of them with thyroid cancer, or that in the end it would seem most likely that 20,000-30,000 people will die prematurely from illness caused by that exposure.

All of these lessons were to be learned from Chernobyl, but there is perhaps another more important one: as a senior member of the International Atomic Safety Committee in Geneva said, "the fact that we can develop and use a new technology does not mean that we fully understand it or that we can control it."

Jews at greater risk to effects of tragedy

WENDY ELLIMAN

TEN years after the reactor at Chernobyl exploded, radiation-induced disease will begin in earnest. And the 200,000 Jewish children in the area may be at the greatest risk.

If the Hiroshima timetable holds true for the victims of the Chernobyl blast — which had nine times the force of the former — those illnesses are due to start appearing now.

Jews may be three to nine times more susceptible to the effects of radiation than non-Jews, and Jews living in the Chernobyl area could have a greater chance of developing post-irradiation thyroid cancer.

These are the conclusions of radiation scientist Keith Baverstock of the World Health Organization's Rome-based European Center for Environment and Health. He reported to the WHO's Regional Conference in Jerusalem last year that thyroid cancer among all 850,000 children exposed to the Chernobyl meltdown has risen to 500 times the previous rate, and that studies have shown an even greater susceptibility to radiation among "people of Jewish origin."

While this finding may provide important clues to the genetics of radiation susceptibility, it also signals an even greater emergency on the ground than was believed earlier.

"With hundreds of thousands of Jews living in the area around Chernobyl, these findings have very grave implications," says Jay Litvin, medical liaison for the Habad Children of Chernobyl. "It contributes massively to the urgency with which we're trying to evacuate Jewish children from Chernobyl."

In the past five years, Habad Children of Chernobyl has brought 1,238 youngsters to Israel, where it has taken care of their food, housing, schooling and medical care. The medical care available in Israel is a key to the rescue program.

"Israel has the skills, equipment and facilities to help large numbers of these children," says Yossie Raichik, director of the program. "The Ukraine's medical infrastructure is overwhelmed."

Prof. Ze'ev Wessler, head of the radiotherapy department at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem, has been responsible for the medical care of Jewish youngsters evacuated to Israel by Habad since August 1990.

"Our estimate is that 5 to 10% of Chernobyl survivors now living in Israel — that is, as many as 20,000 people — could face Chernobyl-linked health problems," he says. "Unfortunately, it's not possible to follow them all. What we're doing is working with the 1,200 or so who we know are at highest risk."

TWELVE-YEAR-old David Leibowitz was brought to Israel from the Chernobyl area three years ago. Severe headaches and vomiting led Israeli doctors to find and remove a large tumor from his brain. "David was examined for his headaches shortly before leaving Kiev," his father says. "Doctors there told him it was just part of growing up." A 20% increase in brain tumors has been noted in children in the contaminated areas around Chernobyl.

Andre Zilchenska, also 12, came to Israel a year ago on his own. His mother sent him when Ukrainian doctors wanted to operate on his pancreas. In Ukrainian hospitals, she explained, there is insufficient food and medication, "and parents sit by their children day and night to make sure that food and drugs are not stolen. You can't be angry at these 'thieves,'" she continues. "They're parents like me, who want to save their children."

Israeli doctors started by treating Andre with nutrition and medication. This turned out to be sufficient to clear up his problem without surgery.

Not all the stories end as happily. Four-year-old Dimochek died in June in Minsk, Belarus, of leukemia. Doctors attributed his disease to ingestion of radiation-contaminated food and water. With no money to pay for a bone-marrow transplant, Dimochek's parents tried to get the boy to Israel. The child died in the week it took to make the travel arrangements.

SPEED IS critical in helping children who have been exposed to radiation. According to Baverstock, "there's no reason why any Chernobyl child should die. All problems that arise from low-level radiation can be treated if they're caught in time."

Those at highest risk fall into two main groups. One is people — medical personnel, salvage workers and drivers — sent into the reactor complex immediately after the explosion without protective clothing. About 150 of these live here today, and many of them are now seriously ill; many others are dead.

The second group consists of young children who lived within a 160-kilometer radius of Chernobyl. Almost all of them have been brought in Israel under the Habad program.

"Children are more susceptible than adults to radiation-induced illnesses, particularly to thyroid cancer," says Prof. Shaul Yatav, head of pediatrics at Hadassah.

While doctors are reluctant to blame all the group's health problems on the Chernobyl fallout, they admit that the coincidence of symptoms in children from the areas of highest radiation is "overwhelming."

Eye problems among them run at 40%. Enlargement of the thyroid gland, a precursor of thyroid cancer, is found in 25% of the boys and 40% of the girls. Twenty percent of the youngsters suffer respiratory distress. In addition, nonspecific inflammatory diseases in these children are common, and their frequent colds progress rapidly into pneumonia.

A program of preventive treatment is under way, based on a compound called beta carotene. A chemical cousin of vitamin A, it is known to recognize precancerous cells and convert them back to normal. Following a trial with 150 of the Chernobyl youngsters, all are now being treated with beta carotene.

Overall, their doctors have observed "a significant improvement in their clinical status," according to Wessler. This contrasts with the results of two major studies, released by the US National Cancer Institute in January, finding that beta carotene supplements produce no measurable health benefits.

Habad's heroic rescue of Chernobyl's children

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

ALTHOUGH his University of Illinois degree is in education and his professional experience includes the making of TV commercials and documentaries, Jay Litvin more than holds his own in discussion with medical experts about diseases caused by radiation.

Litvin, the 51-year-old medical liaison of Habad's Children of Chernobyl project, is in constant telephone and Internet contact with oncologists, radiologists and endocrinologists researching the effects of the nuclear-reactor disaster on health. He constantly scans medical journals and general news media for any mention of medical fallout of the reactor explosion. At international conferences marking the 10th anniversary of Chernobyl, the Habad hassid is treated like a medical man in the discussions, even though he wouldn't know how to conduct a double-blind experiment or palpate an enlarged thyroid gland.

"There have been so many conflicting reports on the short- and long-term effects of the Chernobyl radiation. I decided to study the subject intensively, because I wanted to know the truth," says Litvin, whose blue sports jacket, color-coordinated tie and black kippa take the place of traditional Habadniks' regulation tieless white shirt, black suit and omnipresent black fedora.

Despite his lack of a medical education, Litvin realized the implications of reports that Jews have a genetic predisposition for increased sensitivity to radiation. Dr. Keith Baverstock, the British-born chief radiation scientist for the World Health Organization's Chernobyl Project, was aware of this medical "curiosity," but ignorant of its relevance to Chernobyl.

In 1986, hundreds of thousands of Jews lived in Byelorussia and the Ukraine on the edge of the historical Pale of Jewish Settlement. Despite mass immigration to Israel and the arrival here of 1,300 Jewish children brought by the Habad project, many Jews remain in the affected areas. The implications of this predisposition are now being studied jointly by the WHO and the Habad project.

Litvin, who lives in Kfar Habad with his wife Sharon, a writer, and their seven children, wasn't religious until he was 36. "We were secular, and knew less than a Reform family. But although I never had a bar mitzva, because Hebrew school



Jay Litvin with Zalman, a Chernobyl child: I feel like a person whose child comes down with a serious condition and who will go to great lengths to get closer to a cure.

seemed vacuous to me, I had been interested in spiritual things for a long time."

WHILE studying a "treif Kabbala" with a friend, he was told about a rabbi who was giving a class on Jewish mysticism.

"I didn't want to have anything to do with a rabbi," Litvin recalls. "But a few days later, I was watching a Sunday-morning religious program on TV that presented that same rabbi explaining about Haaukka. It turned out I lived half a block from the Habad House where he worked, and I had never

known."

His interest piqued, Litvin strolled over to see Rabbi Yosef Samuels. "I hit the Tanya [a primary Habad text] and it was all over. I was a Jew and a Habadnik."

His wife, who came from a similar secular background in Chicago and to whom he had been married for 10 years, said she had suspected that with his spiritual leanings, he would one day find something that suited him. Sharon began to go to Habad lectures and the couple soon became Shabbat observant.

Fortunately for his career, he was not forced to toss out his TV and writing skills. Habad widely uses the media for educational purposes. He offered his professional abilities to Habad and he became involved with the Children of Chernobyl project, serving as its public relations director in the US. Then he wrote to the rabbi and received his blessing to move to Israel, which he and his family did almost three years ago.

"I started to investigate the medical aspects of Chernobyl out of curiosity and in order to be intelligent about what I do in public relations," he says.

In long discussions with local and foreign scientists, Litvin found that they tended to be experts in their limited specialty, but did not see an interdisciplinary picture. "There was never anything like Chernobyl before. Hiroshima is not a precedent for understanding the medical implications because that [atomic bomb] killed most people on impact and the radiation spread differently. Scientists publish very conservative findings about Chernobyl, but when you talk to them, they are much more liberal in their theories about the risks of radiation exposure."

Litvin writes and produces newsletters on the Children of Chernobyl project; he also visits hospitals, meets with researchers and refers parents to experts dealing with unusual problems.

"I feel like a parent expert/advocate — a person whose child comes down with a serious condition and who will go great lengths to get closer to a cure," he says. "Taking care of hundreds of individual children — feeding them, dressing them, nursing them in illness, educating them — is a burden, a headache. But the project will go on for as long as parents continue to entrust their children to us."

VIENNA ARTISTS IN JERUSALEM

Concert by the Viennese Klangforum Ensemble Europe's leading instrumental group. A one-time musical experience. Zemilinksy: "Trio in d minor op.3" Shreker: "Der Wind" Cerha: "Reflection of Two Lightning Bolts" Eisler, Berg, Vebern. Sunday, May 5, at 9:00 p.m. Henry Crown Auditorium, Jerusalem Theater

Viennese Chamber Music Members of the Viennese Klangforum Ensemble Joseph Haydn: "London" trio in G major for violin, flute and cello W.A. Mozart: Trio for piano, clarinet and viola (Kagalstat Trio) K. 498 Johannes Brahms: Trio in A minor for clarinet cello and piano, op. 114 Wednesday, May 8, 8:30 p.m. Targ Music Center, Ein Kerem.

Gold & Silver Stars of Vienna Operetta Vienna's two greatest opera singers John Dickie, tenor and Ildiko Raimondi, Soprano, appearing with the great conductor, Rudolf Bibl, in concert renditions of excerpts and arias, from operettas, with the Jerusalem Artists Chamber Orchestra. Musical director: Motti Schmit Johann Strauss- excerpts from "Die Fledermaus". Amrich Kalman- Princess of Czardas and Waltz of Lagoon, from Night in Venice and more... Tuesday, May 7, 8:30 p.m. Rebecca Crown Auditorium Jerusalem Theater

Old & New Viennese Songs, with Soprano Anita Ammersfeld, accompanied by pianist-vocalist Gerhard Bronner Songs from the golden era of Viennese cabaret Thursday, May 9, 8:30 p.m. Targ Music Center, Ein Kerem.

"Street Diaries"-A Poster exhibition of films from 1920's on, featuring Jewish actors, directors & producers. In the foyer of the Jerusalem Theater Opens at 7:45 p.m. on Sunday, May 5

Lecture by author Ruth Klüger (in English) A Viennese writer and Holocaust survivor who moved to the USA Tsalman Hall, the Gymnasia High School. Monday, May 6, 6:00 p.m.



Vienna Dance Theater "Inscription for Eden" A fascinating dance performance, notable for its dynamism and precision. "Love separated by a hair's breadth from violence" Choreographer: Liz King Monday, May 6, 8:30 p.m. Rebecca Crown Auditorium, Jerusalem Theater.



Tickets: Bimot, Tel. 240896, Klaim Tel 256869, other agencies in town, and at the box office, on evening of performance. Tickets of choice of Jerusalem Theater subscribers may be used for these performances.

Handwritten text in a box: סניף אלון

Failing the 'huddled masses' test

The status Russian Jews in the US enjoy as refugees is ripe for review, Marilyn Henry reports from New York

WITH a poem, the Statue of Liberty has welcomed tens of millions of immigrants to American shores. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

But it has been a long time since the US so romantically embraced them. And when it comes to the Jews of the former Soviet Union, some in the US question whether they still pass the "huddled masses" test.

A recent survey of the Russian Jews in New York, and reports from some communal leaders in the former Soviet Union, seem to suggest that, history aside, their status as refugees is ripe for review.

Israel is officially staying out of the refugee debate. The scars are still fresh from Jerusalem's tug of war with American Jews over the appropriate destination of the Russians when the great exodus of Soviet Jewry began a few years ago.

Jews from the former Soviet Union are eligible to settle in the US under a special refugee provision that relaxes admission standards on the grounds that the Jews are endangered.

In general, applicants for refugee status must individually prove a "well-founded fear of persecution," based on race, religion, nationality or political opinion.

However, under the so-called Lautenberg Amendment, Jews and evangelical Christians in the former Soviet Union are treated as groups that must show only a "credible basis for concern" about persecution. Historic antisemitism provides that "credible basis."

The six-year-old amendment, named after Democratic Senator Frank Lautenberg, comes up for renewal in September. The attack on it is already under way.

"How in the world can we explain our posturing... about our rare and wonderful friendship and alliance with the present Russian government and the present independent states... while pretending in some cruel way that somehow people coming out of there are still refugees?" asked Republican Senator Alan Simpson of Wyoming, noting that there is no longer a Soviet Union.

"I would not suggest in any possible way that we are forgetting the lessons of the past, or the persecution of Jews in the former Soviet Union and throughout the world, or the lessons of the Holocaust," Simpson said in a recent speech in the Senate.

But, he added, these people should fall under the same refugee law that applies to everyone else.

Were it included to publicly chime in - which it is not - Israel would find itself on the same side. As a sovereign state that is dedicated to the ingathering, and that welcomes all Jews, Israel cannot abide the notion that there are still Jewish refugees.

And with Israel's national carrier, El Al, operating five flights a

week from Tel Aviv to Moscow, it is hard to make a compelling case about persecution when there is now such obvious unrestricted travel.

Last year, the US granted asylum to 110,000 refugees, including 22,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union. Some 350,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union have come to the US since 1965, most as refugees.

American Jewish organizations argue that the Russian Jews continue to face threats, including a potential "Zhirinovskiy-esque" victory of the extreme right wing in Russia's June presidential elections. In the recent congressional debates on immigration, they produced a parade of witnesses to tell legislators just that.

"State antisemitism was the first entity that was privatized, and it was taken up by the hands of hundreds of organizations," Alla Gerber, a Jewish member of the Russian Parliament from 1993 to 1995, told a congressional panel in February.

However, while the Russians are coming to the US under the refugee provision, they are not citing antisemitism as a major concern.

A survey of the Russian Jewish community in New York, released late last year, found that 41 percent said they emigrated because of personal safety, 10 percent cited family reunions, another 10 percent noted financial difficulties, while only 5 percent specifically mentioned antisemitism. (The rest

cited other reasons.) These are sentiments echoed by communal leaders in the former Soviet Union.

"Our experience for many years is showing that antisemitism has much less influence on emigration," said Josef Zissels, chairman of the Va'ad of Ukraine, which represents a community of more than 550,000 Jews.

Among the factors that families consider, economics has greater sway than persecution, he said in an interview during a visit to New York last month.

None suggest that antisemitism has ceased to be a threat. But Zissels said: "Do you want the stereotype or the reality? Right now, antisemitism is not a crucial problem in the Ukraine."

Some of the Va'ads' statements are viewed as suspect because the organizations are trying to build and sustain local institutions and thus have a powerful interest in getting along with their respective national governments.

But, even if the statements were to be taken at face value, there was virtually universal agreement that there are vast differences in the situations within or among the newly independent states. Gerber, for example, said optimistic reports about Moscow did not reflect conditions elsewhere in the Russian Federation.

"There is Moscow, and there is everything outside the boundary of Moscow," Gerber said. "And they are like two different worlds." That point was crucial in any

Let my people go no more?

OVER each of the last few years, the Jewish Agency has been getting some \$80 million a year from the US State Department to "resettle refugees" from the former Soviet Union.

This is no small sum, considering that American Jewish organizations send the agency roughly \$205 million a year for immigration and absorption.

The US grant was flagged last year in a routine audit of the State Department's refugee programs, conducted by the department's in-house inspector general.

The office of the inspector general "questioned the appropriateness of this assistance to these Jews since, in its view, most did not qualify as 'refugees,'" according to an official summary of the audit.

Congress, whose task it is to define a "refugee," thus far appears unmoved by the audit's concern, and the grant is expected to be renewed for next year. Congress - adopting the cry of "Let My People Go" - was fulfilling its obligation to help finance the exodus it helped create, observers said.

However, they also noted the paradox: Israel cringes at references to Soviet Jews as refugees in the US immigration laws, but is forced to swallow the designation to receive the grant.

The grant, which has been a source of funds of varying amounts for a quarter-century, is given to the United Israel Appeal, which then forwards it to the agency. M.H.



consideration of US law, rescue workers said. Although the one-time Soviet republics are independent, for the purposes of the US immigration policy, all states of the former Soviet Union remain lumped together.

"Of course there are differences between them, with problems in some places, but not in others. But how could you make a distinction for immigration?" one rescue worker asked. "Would you say that Jews from Kiev are not refugees, but Jews from Tashkent are?"

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(Continued from Page 8) siasm in the wake of its successful tests.

Peres will also seek to iron out policy differences with the US. One concerns guidelines for the use of commercial satellites. Both countries want to sell pictures from their imaging satellites but do not want to step on the security concerns of the other.

So Israel has objected to the use of US commercial satellites in photographing the country. A consortium of US companies and Saudi Arabia want to launch a satellite that could give Riyadh that capability.

And Pentagon officials don't want Israeli satellites to be used by customers in China or North Korea to photograph Japan, where the US maintains military installations. Israel Aircraft Industries and Core Software Technologies plan on launching an imaging satellite in

May 1997.

DEFENSE Ministry Director-General David Ivry met earlier this year with CIA director John Deutch on setting rules for the use of commercial satellites. But so far the two sides have agreed on principles only.

A more sensitive area is that of alleged Israeli diversion of US technology. For the last two years, a group of US and Israeli experts has been examining Pentagon complaints that Israel illegally diverted US components and technology to third countries, particularly China.

Defense sources say the group has finished its work and has concluded that most of the US complaints were unfounded. The unresolved complaints involve alleged Israeli transfers to China.

Israeli officials say they want the Pentagon to announce that it has

CLINTON

cleared Israel of all its allegations. "This is important to us," an official says, "because we've seen how many times some jerk in Washington decides to stick it to Israel and brings up the technology transfer charge."

But a US defense source suggests that the Pentagon will first want an Israeli commitment not to transfer even indigenous military technology to countries such as China and North Korea. "This has become a policy question," the source says.

The remaining issues on Peres's security list include US-Israeli cooperation on counterterrorism and agreement to begin talks on a defense pact. The latter is regarded as controversial, with its biggest supporter being the prime minister. Israeli officials say Peres's aim is

to formalize an alliance with the US that will guarantee Israel's security long after the Clinton presidency. They say the prime minister is convinced the US president is prepared to be more generous than any of his predecessors in issuing the kind of commitments that will make Peres comfortable with agreeing to such steps as the return of the Golan Heights to Syria.

But many Israeli officials, including those from both the Defense and Foreign ministries, have expressed strong opposition to a formal defense alliance.

The officials, citing the US treaty with South Korea, say that such an alliance would severely limit Israel's freedom to defend itself. A group headed by Ivry has recommended that the US and Israel announce the formation of working groups to explore a defense pact. "We started working out what kind of alliance

we would like," a senior official says. "It would be one that has all the good points of a US commitment without the bad elements. But time is short and now we just suggest a joint statement to pursue the matter."

US defense sources appear to be satisfied with that approach. In an era of decreased defense funding, they say, the US is not keen on expanding its military commitments abroad. As a result, the sources say, the Clinton administration will give enough to Peres so he can claim a breakthrough in US-Israeli relations without receiving specific promises.

"At this stage, you're going to have an articulation of principles, which is always a nice thing for a small country to have," a US defense analyst says. "The question is how to operationalize this down the road. That will depend a lot on the election results in Israel."

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Oslo has not affected Israel bashing

EYE ON THE MEDIA
DAVID BAR-ILLAN

A common criticism leveled against this column is that it is a paranoid expression of the outmoded belief that "the world is against us."

Some critics, failing to notice the internal contradiction of their calumny, write, "Stop! Finding enemies everywhere is a ghetto-like practice. People are no longer against us. But your harangues will turn them into antisemites!"

True, crass Jew-baiting and blatant discrimination have dramatically diminished in Western countries. But anti-Zionism and the application of a double standard to Israel have replaced the pre-Holocaust pogroms, quotas, restrictions, incitements and "gentlemen's agreements."

The Oslo accords are a case in point. Perceived, correctly, as a first step to Israel's withdrawal to the 1949 armistice lines and the establishment of a Palestinian state — something the world has been advocating for more than 20 years — the agreements received good press. As Israel doing the world's bidding can always expect a favorable attitude in the media, at least for 36 hours.

But while editorialists, particularly in the US, have been generally supportive of the Labor government (no second imagination is needed to guess what they and their Israel colleagues would have done with "Grapes of Wrath" had the Likud launched it), the reporting on Israel has been, if anything,

nastier and more anti-Israel than ever.

With the Palestinian state becoming a real possibility, the efforts to justify its establishment by rewriting history and portraying Israelis as colonialist invaders have increased. Concomitantly, there is an almost total absence of critical reporting from the PA-ruled areas. The kidnappings, torture, wanton murders, corruption, wholesale thefts from Israel and, above all, the ruthless oppression and daily cruelties are at most mentioned in passing.

Even the reporting of such atrocities as the Hamas suicide bombings can get an anti-Israel spin. The *Guardian's* Israel correspondent Derek Brown, for example, began a report on the Dizengoff bombing as follows: "Israel last night tore a gaping hole in its peace deal with the Palestinians, after Islamist fanatics dealt out mass murder for the fourth time in eight days with a suicide bomb in Tel Aviv which killed 12 civilians. At an emergency session, the cabinet decided Israeli troops will be able to return to self-rule areas of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, controlled by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority."

And *Guardian* commentator Martin Woollacott found what must be the most ingenious excuse for Arafat's failure to combat Hamas: "The efficient PLO military chiefs who could have taken the right decisions are no longer

with us: Israel killed them years ago, an illustration of the truism that what you need in peace you often destroy in war."

And whatever little sympathy the reporters did manage to muster after the suicide bombings quickly dissipated when Israel imposed a closure on the territories. A syndicated commentary by Leonard Larsen of the Scripps Howard News service was typical of the general tone:

"It was collective punishment inflicted with murderous efficiency when Nazi Germany ruled vast areas of occupied Europe, in one stroke wiping out an entire Czechoslovakian village and its 1,200 inhabitants to punish guerrilla terrorists who'd killed a Gestapo leader."

"The chilling present-day parallel where collective punishment — the tactic of the Gestapo — is used indiscriminately against a population held captive occurs in Israel, the land of a people more victimized by Nazi oppressors than any others."

"Absent mass murder, Israeli military forces now — as they have in the past — inflict collective punishment on the 2 million Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, acting as if to punish Hamas terrorists for a series of murderous bombings against Israeli civilians and sol-

diers.

"Much the same as the Nazis used collective punishment, the Israelis have blown up and bulldozed homes and neighborhoods where terrorists were known to have lived. They have, like the Germans, rounded up scores of 'suspects' to be harassed with handcuffs and blindfolds and marched off for 'interrogation,' sometimes brutalized by torture and imprisoned without trial or formal charges."

Needless to say, Operation Grapes of Wrath afforded the media an even better excuse to bash Israel. A little restraint could be felt in the American press, unabashedly worried that harsh condemnation would hurt Shimon Peres's election chances. But it was enough to compare the treatment of the terrorist killing of 18 Greek tourists in Cairo with that of the Kana tragedy to realize how eager journalists were to dwell on the obviously accidental border in Lebanon rather than on the cold-blooded mass murder in Cairo.

The uncontrollable outrage of CNN and BBC reporters in Kana made the telecasts of the suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv seem like detached recitations about an unfortunate accident. Again, *The Guardian* provided a typical comment in an editorial headlined "War crimes, nothing

less."

THOSE who believe that the media will be kinder and that love of Israel will flourish once Israel completes the withdrawal process on all fronts may find interest in a *Shishi* article by Aharon Megged, one of Israel's foremost writers and a certified dove.

"Lecturers from Israel visiting American campuses in the 1970s and 1980s... expected harsh attacks from Jewish and Gentile lecturers and students. Those were the years of our complete domination of the territories, when American television showed every few days revolting scenes of Israeli soldiers abusing Palestinians..."

"To the enlightened, freedom-seeking American students, who had just manned the barricades in the revolt against the conservative, reactionary establishment, Israel was an oppressive state trampling human rights, persecuting freedom fighters, and deserving banishment from the comity of nations."

"An Israeli... found it difficult to counter such attacks, especially if he agreed with some of the charges directed against his countrymen."

"Now it has become clear that in the years since the Oslo agreement and the hand-shaking ceremony on the White House lawn, since the Palestinian Authority received Gaza

and the towns and villages of the West Bank... not only have attacks on Israel in American campuses not diminished; they have become more numerous and venomous.

"This is shocking, because we have always been told — and we ourselves believed it to a certain extent — that the reason for the hatred... for Israel in circles considered 'enlightened,' 'liberal,' and 'left-wing' — all pursuers of justice — is that Israel is an occupier of another people whom it displaced, intending to rule it and its land forever..."

"Now the facts contemptuously spit in our faces. Details of what is happening on the campuses have been compiled by CAMERA (Committee for Accurate Middle East Reporting in America), an educational, inter-religious organization of people of different viewpoints whose purpose is to combat distortions, falsehoods and disinformation in the media coverage of Israel and the Middle East..."

"Examples the organization has collected from campuses include *Collegian*, the student newspaper at the University of Massachusetts, which regularly publishes slanders on Israel and Zionism. A recent article by a member of the League for the Defense of Palestine had the following: 'The Israelis have chosen oppression, occupation, invasion and violence. They are animated by pathological racism.'

"Black leader Kuome Toure goes

from campus to campus, lecturing students. His slogan is 'The only good Zionist is a dead Zionist.' He was greeted with an ecstatic ovation when he told 500 University of Maryland students that 'Zionism is the enemy of mankind.'

"In a large meeting in a Santa Monica college... Ralph Schoenman said 'The Jews dominated the slave trade, the Zionists collaborated with the Nazis in perpetrating the Holocaust, Israel is an apartheid state in which the Palestinians are the real Jews.'

"The most surrealistic scene... was at the MIT campus in Boston, where Yisrael Shahak and Noam Chomsky compared Zionism to Nazism... The Anti-Defamation League reports a growth of 168 percent in antisemitic incidents on campuses..."

"The Jewish students are mostly indifferent... Those who try to counter [the anti-Israel propaganda] lack the necessary tools — Israeli 'hasbara' is a dismal failure — and many of them, who see themselves as 'progressives' join the attackers of Zionism and Israel, pouring oil on the fires of hatred. And Israeli diplomats congratulate themselves on the stunning transformation in the world's attitude: they all love us now!"

"What more do we have to do to ingratiate ourselves with the righteous 'progressives' of this world, to be pure in their eyes? The answer is simple: cease to exist!"

A taboo on truth

SOME spokesmen and advocates of the "Palestinian" cause seem determined to continue debating that cause by building it so heavily of bald lies, fairy tales and quarter-truths.

There is, for example, the *Palestine-Israel Journal (PIJ)*, issued in Jerusalem, whose penchant for terminological inexactitude I have already noted (January 24, February 4 and March 24, 1992). It calls itself "an independent quarterly that aims to shed light on, and analyze freely and critically, the complex issues dividing Israelis and Palestinians... [Its] purpose is to promote rapprochement and better understanding between the two peoples, and it strives to discuss all the issues without prejudice or taboos."

It was co-founded and is edited by Ziad Abu Zayyad, an attorney, journalist and a leading member of the "Palestine Council" elected in January, and by Victor Cypselman, who was an editor of the now-defunct *New Outlook*, a Tel Aviv-based left-wing magazine that claimed to promote Jewish-Arab dialogue.

PIJ's issue 11-2 was devoted to "Our Jerusalem," with Jews and Moslem and Christian Arabs telling of their attitudes to the city. It is replete with examples of how far it is from living up to its noble statement of purpose, and the extent to which it observes a taboo on truth. Here are just a few examples.

In an article entitled "Jerusalem: Logic and Emotions," Abu Zayyad tells us what Jerusalem "represents" for him. What he gives us is a farago of fairy tales and distortions.

For example, he invents a non-Semitic genealogy for Patriarch, common ancestor of the Jews and Arabs. Absham is of course a Jewish "creation," first appearing in the *Torah*, in Hebrew, as Avram/Avraham. He was born in Ur of the Chaldees (in today's Iraq) to Terah, ninth-generation descendant of Shem, Noah's eldest son, and progenitor of the Semites.

Abu Zayyad makes Abraham the son of Canaan, fourth son of Noah's middle son, Ham, and replaces Abraham's Hebrew name by an Arabic one, writing: "Jerusalem for me represents the deep roots of Canaan and his son Ibrahim [Abraham]."

A VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

Even the Koran doesn't go so far. It gives Abraham's father a truncated Hebrew name, Azar, short for Elazar. "Azar's" creator apparently dropped the first syllable, "El," assuming it to be in Hebrew what it is in Arabic, the definite article "the."

THE SIGHTS, sounds and smells that Abu Zayyad recalls from his Jerusalem childhood are exclusively Moslem and Christian.

His childhood evidently was during the period eastern Jerusalem was occupied by Jordan, whose Hashemite rulers banned the entry, with rare exceptions, of people who did not have a baptismal certificate or had an Israeli visa stamped in their passport.

What a pity he was no longer around, or perhaps just didn't pay attention, after 1967. For two decades between June 1967, when the Jordanian aggressors lost eastern Jerusalem etc. in the Six Day War, and the intifada that began in December 1987 the Jerusalem medley was again enriched by Jewish sights, sounds and smells. During those 20 1/2 years, except for relatively few incidents, Jews, Moslems and Christians mingled freely in what Abu Zayyad and his ilk call "Arab Jerusalem."

What a magnificent scene it was especially when the Pessah, Easter and Nebi Mussa festivals coincided, and throngs of Jews, Moslems and Christians peacefully brushed past each other in the narrow lanes of the walled Old City on their respective ways to worship at the Western Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and Al-Aksa Mosque.

Worship was never freer in Jerusalem than it was in those 20 1/2 years before Arab rock-throwings and stabbings became a feature of daily life in Jerusalem.

LAWYER JONATHAN Kuttub is a Christian (Anglican) Arab who failed as a candidate in the Palestine Council elections. He identifies himself as a human-rights lawyer, though he has justified the torture and murder of Arabs cooperating with Israel.

In PIJ 11-2 Kuttub, discussing "The Legal Status of Jerusalem," notes that the UN resolutions between 1947 and 1949 calling

for, *inter alia*, the internationalization of Jerusalem, were never implemented.

This, in his words, was because "fighting broke out with the withdrawal of British Mandatory forces" in May 1948.

Of course, the fighting didn't merely "break out." It was launched by local Arabs and their alleged allies from the surrounding states who thought to throttle Israel at birth.

Then came the 1967 war, when Israel captured eastern Jerusalem and "proceeded to carry out a number of steps to alter the legal and factual status of the city."

Of course, the 1967 war didn't come out of nowhere, but out of another Arab attempt to destroy us. And we captured what we captured not because we were indiscriminately swallowing territory, but because we defeated the aggressors who came from there and for whom those areas were bases for attacks against us.

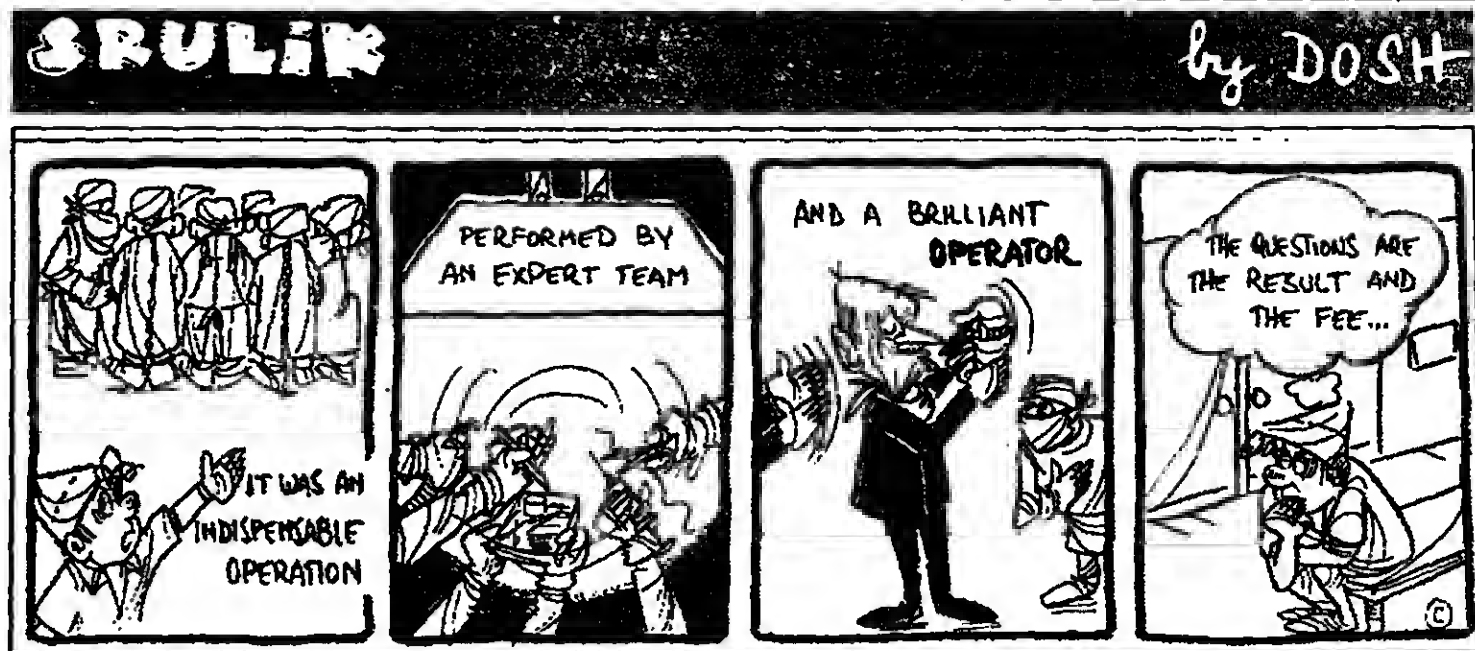
As for legality, a number of world-renowned experts on international law — from Israel and elsewhere, both Jews and non-Jews — who respect facts as much as Abu Zayyad, Kuttub & Co. respect fiction have noted that in view of the Jews' historical link to the land, of the Arabs' rejection of the UN's 1947 partition proposal, and in view of their aggressions in 1948 and 1967, Israel is the only rightful legal heir to eastern Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria.

Nevertheless, we repeatedly made peace overtures to the Arabs, which they repeatedly rejected until, at Oslo, we made them an offer they couldn't refuse: unilateral, almost unconditional concessions by us.

IN A Gallup poll among 505 Jews over 18 on April 14, just after we launched operation Grapes of Wrath, 52% said they didn't believe Prime Minister and Defense Minister Shimon Peres's promise not to divide Jerusalem, while 36.3% did believe him and 8.2% didn't know.

Asked whether they thought urging hardi Jews to abstain in the prime ministerial election is consistent with democracy, 63.5% said it isn't, 26% said it is, and 8.2% didn't know.

The poll was carried out for IMRA/Independent Media Review and Analysis.



Better a victim than a beast

And the Lord spoke to Moses: "Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.'" (Lev. 19:1-2)

THERE are times when a person's faith is on a collision course with a mighty power sweeping across the land, its messengers wielding a new religious symbol in one hand and a sword in the other.

Judaism has always seen such confrontations as a monumental test of character. If the force is directed against the Jewish people as a whole (mass conversion), then Jews must give up their lives even if the marching armies only try to coerce them to abandon certain Jewish customs.

If the confrontation is directed against an individual, however, then the law requires the giving up of one's life only when pressured to transgress the three most serious crimes: idolatry; fornication; or murder.

If the individual demonstrates the inner strength to choose death rather than transgress he is called a *Kadosh*, or a holy one.

The source of this accolade is the command in this week's portion, *Kedoshim tilvu* (you shall be holy), as well as the directive in next week's reading: "I shall be sanctified in the midst of the children of Israel." (Lev. 22:32)

But if choice in such matters is an essential element, how are we to understand the Holocaust, where choice was not involved? True, there were some Jews who managed to cling to the commandments even in the death camps. Tales have been collected about how a pair of tefillin would be smuggled inside, and, when no one was looking, each Jew in the block would find a few seconds to quickly make the blessings over it.

Some would even refuse to eat bread on Pessah and, if the few potatoes they had managed to save could not sustain them for the eight-day festival,

they would die, having chosen the martyr's path rather than transgress a biblical law.

But, by and large, the majority of Jews simply wanted to survive, and their internal struggle was only to survive as best and as long as possible. When taken to the gas chambers, no one was given a choice between certain death or freedom on the condition that they abandon their religion. The gas chambers were blind — all Jews, including the most assimilated, were welcomed.

Nevertheless, in all of the Holocaust memorial ceremonies and prayers, we refer to all the martyrs as *Kedoshim*.

Indeed, Rabbi Unterman, one of the early chief rabbis of Israel, writes in his collection of responsa, *Shevet Mivchuda*, that true *Kiddush Hashem* must involve choice. He would probably maintain that all of those who died in Auschwitz do not necessarily merit the appellation *kadosh*.

Rabbi Shimon Huberland, who lived in Poland during World War II, disagreed with Unterman. He claims in his memoirs that the death of every Jew killed in the Holocaust constitutes a *Kiddush Hashem*.

Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik supported this view. He cited a fascinating talmudic text in which Rava contrasts a wicked person who dies a violent death to a wicked person who dies a violent death at the hands of Gentile assassins. The first receives no atonement, while the one who is cruelly murdered because he is a Jew does receive atonement. (B.T. *Sanhedrin* 47a)

Rava proves this point by quoting from Psalms: "O God, heathen nations are come into your inheritance, your holy temple have they defiled. They have laid Jerusalem in heaps. They have given the dead bodies of your servants as food to the birds of the sky, the flesh of your pious ones to the beasts of the earth." (Psalms 79:2-3)

"What is the difference," Rava asks, "between 'your servants' and 'your pious ones'? Pious ones are literally that, pious! But 'your servants' refers to those who may even be worthy of capital punishment because of their transgressions, but since they were murdered [for being Jews], they are nonetheless called God's servants."

From this we can conclude that someone killed for no other reason than his being Jewish is thus transformed into a servant of God. The logical explanation may be that since the very existence of Jews is a testament to God's existence, the Almighty guarantees the eternal survival of Israel in the Bible. Thus an act against even the most assimilated Jew merely because he is a Jew becomes an act against God.

Furthermore, according to Maimonides, fighting a *milhemet mitzva*, a war of self-defense, is a sanctification of the Divine Name (Law of Kings 7:15). As is indubitably clear from the diabolical *Mein Kampf*, Hitler was waging a war to the death against the Jewish people. All victims of that war can legitimately be called *kedoshim*.

An amazing story is told about the Jewish leadership in Boyan. The Nazis had the Jews dig their own graves. The work procession was led by the rabbi and two of the town's judges. When they had completed digging the pit, the rabbi asked permission to say a brief prayer. Reciting the blessing said every morning, the rabbi translated the words for the Nazi: "Blessed are Thou O Lord... who didn't make me a gentile."

The baffled officer replied, "You're being murdered now precisely because you're a Jew, and you say this absurd prayer?"

The rabbi responded, "One of the Ten Commandments is 'Thou shalt not murder.' If I had to choose between living in a world divided between those who are murdering, and those who are being murdered, I would rather be the murdered than the murderer."

Shabbat Shalom

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ELECTIONS 1996

The Jerusalem Post, together with the Association of Americans & Canadians in Israel, the British OIjm Society, the Hitachdut OteI Britania, the English Speaking Resident's Association, and the South African Zionist Federation (Israel), will be holding a series of public forums in English in Netanya, Tel Aviv, Ra'anana, Jerusalem, Carmiel, Nahariya, Haifa and Beersheba, at which the various political parties will present their policies. FULL DETAILS SHORTLY.

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City hall, a good spot for bats in Tel Aviv

NATURE
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

ONE never thinks of bats as being urban creatures, but friends in Tel Aviv have discovered the pleasure of bat watching in the heart of the Big Orange. They are no doubt a minority; the average Tel Avivian is unaware of these nocturnal visitors.

Several species of bats can be seen in Tel Aviv, divided into two groups: fruit bats, which are one species, and several varieties of insectivorous bats.

The bats do not, for the most part, live in the city, although they occasionally take up residence in abandoned buildings. They usually live in stonewalled cisterns or caves, often in mixed colonies of fruit bats and insectivores. Since bats have a flight range of quite a few kilometers, depending on species and season, they may well live in cisterns and caves around Ben Shemen, in Modi'in and/or elsewhere, and still come to forage in Tel Aviv at night.

The fruit bats come in summer for orchard fruits and in winter for whatever they can find. Most popular and a staple of their winter sustenance is the fruit of the ubiquitous china-berry tree, *ibidarechet* in Hebrew. This fruit usually remains on the tree throughout winter.

Loquat trees (*shesek* in Hebrew) bear fruit as early as April there, but when bats are



Bats fold their big wings in a compact roll.

(Hanoch Guttmann)

hungry they even eat the loquats while still green. There are also a number of shrubs and hedge plants that have edible, fleshy seeds and berries, and the bats are not averse to eating blossoms of winter flowering plants such as bignonia and some types of hibiscus.

The other species come for the insects that swarm around streetlights and usually find an ample supply. In some areas, however, they are rare because amber-yellow lights that do not attract

insects are used. Look carefully and you'll find it easy to differentiate between the two groups. Fruit bats are much larger and do not move as swiftly as the insectivorous species.

In very cold weather neither type of bat can be seen. Bats require a fairly large amount of food to support themselves. Their enormous, thin-membrane wings are excellent for keeping cool in the summer. But the total wing surface in some species is greater

than the surface of the entire body, so they lose heat with amazing speed.

Unless a bat is sure of finding enough food to replace the lost heat, it prefers to conserve energy and stay at home. They fold their big wings into a compact roll, tuck them as close to the body and into the pelt as they can and rest. They are not real hibernators, like hamsters and other animals, but they are more like bears, being "winter resters" rather than winter sleepers.

One of the best places in Tel Aviv for watching the bats in summer is beside the fountain at City Hall. Since bats usually drink in flight one sees them flying over the water, barely skimming the surface with open mouths.

They usually leave their offspring at home on these excursions, but sometimes one sees a female with a baby bat firmly held in place in a sort of apron like flap between her hind legs as she swoops over the pool.

Instant games on the Net

CHESS
NICK KOPALOFF

THE taciturn chess player who finds a one-on-one game too much of a social strain for some reason has an alternative.

There is always the possibility of playing a game in a room by himself by going through the computer and linking up to the Internet.

Within the seclusion and privacy of his four walls he can just be himself and do battle with challengers from all over the globe.

The Israel team's recent resounding victory over the Dutch on the Internet seems to have boosted local interest in techno-chess.

Compuserve's chess forum reveals a surprising number of Israelis surfing around.

Techno-chess games provide a welcome change from the enigmatic, long-winded postal chess which appeals to chess addicts who have hundreds of days of their lives to kill. Each game can literally take years to complete.

Games on the Net can be concluded within minutes.

Compuserve's Chess Forum offers a wealth of comprehensible chess material and services. Downloaded with ease, the files can be read in leisurely offline.

Hundreds of articles on chess politics and chess opening theory, and game collections listed according to players, venues and ble.

Cyber-chess also offers on-line chess-related debates, conferences, and tournaments as well as casual game play with new cyber-friends.

Compuserve's game-of-the-month award for March went to Frederic Faner's clinical victory in a Caro Kann advanced variation. For his troubles Faner finds himself \$10 richer.

Daniel, Timothy - Faner, Frederic
March 1996
Caro-Kann
Advanced variation

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5. This pawn advance is one of White's most aggressive attempts to refute Black's solid defence. The pawn on e5 prevents Black's knight from hopping to its natural f6 square, and sets the stage for a White kingside assault.

Having already played c6 Black must waste a tempo to play e5 to undermine the White center.

However, unlike in the French Defense advanced variation, Black's white-square bishop is unobstructed by his own pawns and can enter into the game with ease.

3...Bf5 4.Bd3. For a long time this was considered White's best move since it exchanges Black's sole active piece. But experience has shown that Black nevertheless gets an adequate game.

Many GMs are now favouring Nigel Short's idea of ignoring the Black bishop and simply developing with Be2, Nf3 and 0-0.

4...Bxd3 5.Qxd3 e6 6.Nf3

Qa5+ 7.c3

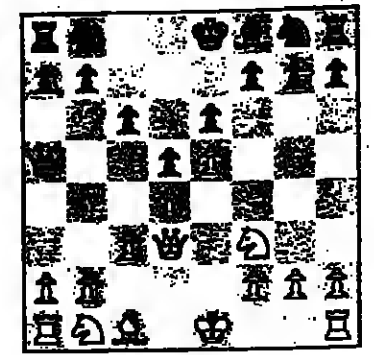


DIAGRAM 1 after White's 7th move

7...Qa6! Abandoning any semblance of tactical play, Faner equalizes by virtually forcing the early exchange of queens. His fortified pawn structure deprives White of any real attacking initiative.

8.Qxa6 Nxa6 9.0-0 Ne7 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bxc7 Bxc7 12.Nbd2 0-0? 12...Kd7 would have been more precise.

13.b4 Rac8 14.Nb3 b6 15.a4 c5 16.b5 Nb8 17.dxc5? Bxc5 18.Nxc5 Rxc5 19.Ra3 Rfc2 20.Rc1 Nd7 21.Kf1 a5 22.Ke2. The en passant capture would have at least given White some fighting chances.

22...Rc4 23.Nd2 Rh4 24.h3 Nxe5 25.f3 Nc4 26.Nxc4 Rxc4 29.g4 h5 30.Ke2 bxc4 31.fxc4 g5 32.Kb3 Rc4 33.Ra1 Kg7 0-1

FIVE Israeli players feature in the world's top 100 according to FIDE's January 1996 ratings. Leonid Yudasin leads the bunch in 30th place followed by Ilya Smirnin, 44.

Boris Altman is 63rd, former Soviet champion Lev Psakhis is at 72 and Vadim Milov brings up the pack in 87th place.

Two Israeli youngsters are included in the world's top 20 juniors.

Emil Sutovski at number 8 and Ronen Har-Zvi, the only native Israeli-born representative, is 14th.

FORMER world champion Boris Spassky found an obscure but uncomplicated way to force Averkin to resign in the 1973 USSR championships. White to play and win.

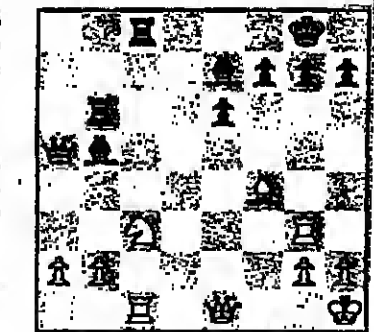


DIAGRAM 2

Solution: 1.Bc7!, threatening to win the exchange and forcing Black to capture the bishop. 1...Rxc7 2.Qc5, threatening mate on g7 and the rook on c7. 1-0

A new form of the Grosvenor

North dealer
Both sides vulnerable

North
♠ A J 3
♥ J 9 7
♦ A Q J 3
♣ 6 4 3

West East
♠ Q 10 6 5 2 ♠ K 8 7 4
♥ O 5 4 ♥ 10 8 6 3
♦ 9 8 ♦ 5 4
♣ 10 8 7 ♣ A J 5

South
♠ 9
♥ A K 2
♦ K 10 7 6 2
♣ K Q 9 2

West North East South
- 1 NT pass 2 NT
pass 3♣ pass 3♣
pass 3 NT pass 4♦ 4 NT
pass 4♣ double 4 NT
pass 5♣ pass 6♦
(all pass)

Opening lead ♠4

BRIDGE
MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

ONE of the most unusual defensive gambits in bridge is the Grosvenor. It is defined by the *Bridge Encyclopedia* as a humorous psychological ploy by a defender who deliberately makes a clear error, giving declarer an opportunity that he will probably refuse because he expects a rational defense.

The hope is that the declarer will be demoralized for later deals.

For example, a Grosvenor may be executed when you are sitting over dummy, which holds the A-Q-J-x of trumps. You hold the king doubleton, and when declarer leads low from his hand and finesses the queen, you follow small.

On the surface, this play is suicidal because if declarer overtakes the ace of trumps, your king will fall. But chances are that declarer will return to his

hand and finesse again to your singleton king.

A more subtle example is when declarer holds five small trumps in his hand and A-K-10-x in dummy. He leads toward the dummy, planning to play the ace on the first round. If no honor drops, he will continue with the king, hoping for a 2-2 split.

Now suppose the second hand follows with the jack or queen. Should declarer return to his hand to lead another trump, planning to finesse the 10? Absolutely not if you are playing against a reasonable defender, who would never split his honors from Q-J-x on the first round.

An expert play, therefore, is to put up the jack from J-x or the

queen from Q-x in front of the A-K-10, in order to set up an imaginary position of Q-J-x. A Grosvenor is to split your honors with Q-J-x and drive declarer mad when he cashes the ace and king.

IN TODAY'S deal, played last year in the Lederer Memorial Teams at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in London, the East player woo an award for the best defensive play of the tournament by executing a new form of the Grosvenor.

North opened the bidding with a 12 to 14 one notrump. South's two overtrump was a transfer to three clubs. His three-spade rebid showed a singleton spade and the minors.

When North bid three overtrump, South continued with four diamonds, a try for slam. North cuebid his ace of spades and South bid Blackwood. North's five-spade response

showed two aces and the queen of trumps, and South placed the slam was a poor contract, which required only one club loser and no heart losers.

Without any help from the opening lead, declarer's best chance was to lead twice toward his king and queen of clubs.

If East held the ace of clubs and clubs were divided 3-3, a heart from dummy could be discarded on South's fourth club.

As the cards lay, declarer was due to succeed, but East put a monkey wrench into the proceedings, or, should I say, a Grosvenor wrench.

After the heart opening lead, declarer did well to put up dummy's jack, but he still needed to avoid two club losers.

HE drew trumps, ending in dummy, and led a club toward his hand. East, Nafiz Zorlu of Turkey, played the jack. This was an unusual play, and when the king held the trick, declarer suddenly had a second option. He returned to dummy and led another club.

This time Zorlu played low, smoothly, looking like a man who had started with the J-10-x of clubs.

South held the Q-9 at this point and could make his slam by finessing the 9, if East held the 10.

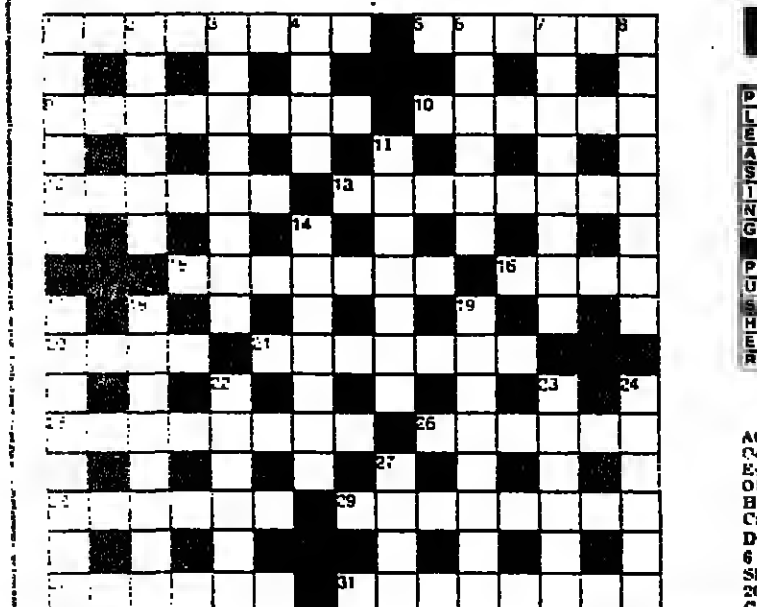
The Grosvenor element was that East, holding the J-10-x originally, should never have split his honors.

So the legitimate play for declarer was to play East for the ace.

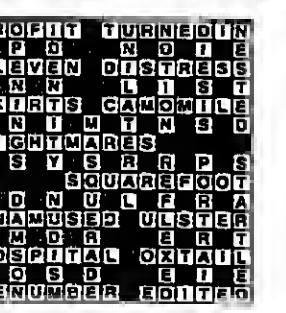
The declarer thought for a long time before guessing correctly by going up with the queen, but East nevertheless won an award for his inventive-ness.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- It may be nicer after tea, but riskier (8)
 - To cut about a quarter hour running (6)
 - English working men made redundant snarled (4)
 - Ran into craft, being unskilled (6)
 - Summary concerned with the return of birds (6)
 - A refusal people will accept (4)
 - Some paper with German article about an idealist (7)
 - Part disappeared (4)
 - An opponent in European time trials (4)
 - Difficulties affecting artists (7)
 - Some of six-footer—a boat's lighter (8)
- DOWN
- Give voice about a woman serving up fruit (6)
 - Not quite a pound maximum (6)
 - Realise water is material (8)
 - Always viewed in the very best conditions (4)



SOLUTIONS



Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Coral, 4 Eight, 10 Cedars, 11 Excel, 12 Cargo, 13 Essence, 15 Vent, 17 Green, 19 Obeys, 22 Dope, 23 Constat, 27 Hello, 28 Noses, 30 Balneario, 31 Cross, 32 Astan.
DOWN: 2 Order, 3 Approve, 5 Ideas, 6 Hackney, 7 Force, 8 Aspen, 9 Slew, 14 Stop, 16 Ends, 18 Reservoir, 20 Beholds, 21 Lemn, 23 Other, 24 Coven, 26 Items, 28 Larva.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- Ancient neck ornament (6)
 - Mediterranean country (6)
 - Shoe-repairer (7)
 - Claw (5)
 - Paradise (4)
 - Subsequently (5)
 - Newspapers (5)
 - Club (4)
 - Youngster (5)
 - Bill (7)
 - Observe (6)
 - Give (6)
- DOWN
- Piled up (7)
 - Snatched (7)
 - Cunning (5)
 - More distant (7)
 - Dexterity (5)
 - Untruthful (5)
 - Artisan (9)
 - Foretell (7)
 - Facitious, joking (7)
 - Fratrille (7)
 - Perfume (5)
 - Merriment (5)
 - Thespian (5)

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Take precautions against dangers

GARDENING
INEZ KLIMIST

THE recent death of a watchman in the Jerusalem area, at first thought to be from a snakebite, is a reminder of nature's dangers, even in cities.

We live in a country which has five kinds of very poisonous snakes, in addition to scorpions and various poisonous spiders and insects. Those of us who dig in the soil therefore need to be extra careful. These critters move around a great deal, and can be found almost anywhere.

If you are in the garden at night, stay away from dense bushes and low overhanging branches. If you must cut flowers or herbs at night or at dusk, take a flashlight, and don't go poking around in the flower beds. It's never a good idea to crawl into or under bushes, even in the daytime. It's always dusk in there, and that's where spiders and other creepy-crawlies live. Don't invade their space, and they will leave you alone, too. Take care when turning over a stone or empty flowerpot, or when you rake through a pile of leaves or twigs. Do it with a long-handled hoe or rake.

Should you get stung by a bee or wasp, put a block of ice on the spot



Creepy-crawly with a sting: a black scorpion (Lisa Pleckow)

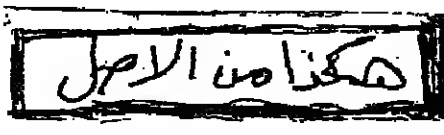
and take an antihistamine. The swelling will soon go away. It's always a good idea to wear sturdy gloves when working in the garden, to counter thorns. If you do get a thorn in your hand, take care of it right away. Get it out with a sterile needle and tweezers, clean the spot thoroughly with alcohol or hydrogen peroxide, and then use a bit of antibiotic cream and a small plaster. Don't wait until you are finished with your chores.

Infectious even in small wounds seem to occur very quickly, perhaps because of all the sand and dust in the air.

Make sure that your tetanus shot is up to date. These must be renewed every 10 years. If you are in doubt whether yours has expired, renew it. It's very easy, and can save you a lot of grief later on.

When working in the garden, in the heat, wear a hat and sunscreen to prevent sunburn. Also, take a bottle of cold water and drink from it every now and then - it's easy to get dehydrated without even noticing it.

In answer to a reader from Rehovot, there is no chemical that you can spray on your lawn so it won't have to be mowed so often; at least not yet.



Little-known Italian cathedral a glory to behold

SITTING as it does in a town of 24,000, in central Italy midway between Rome and Florence, Orvieto's cathedral, or Duomo, hasn't got the global profile of St. Peter's in Rome, the Duomo in Florence, or St. Mark's in Venice.

If the Catholic Church ran a marketing survey of North American visitors to Italy, the grandly Gothic Orvieto church might even run behind the cathedrals of Siena and Milan. And if the subject is the continent's most beautiful churches, there will always be arguments for Chartres or Notre Dame in France, or maybe even Antonio Gaudi's Sagrada Família in Barcelona, if you're in the company of modernists.

But if you arrive in Orvieto in early afternoon on a blue-skyed day, make your way on foot up the Via Nebbia, then turn the old stone corner with all the tourist signs and cast your gaze skyward, there's a good chance that you'll forget about other churches for a while. There stands the Duomo, in considerable glory.

The first time I came face to face with the cathedral of Orvieto, I was startled and humbled, but not quite overcome; it was shortly before noon, and the facade was in the shade. But by the time I had wandered back to the Piazza del Duomo about an hour later, the sun was in optimum position, and the front of the church was ablaze. It didn't seem real.

Art historian Jacob Burckhardt called the Duomo "the greatest and richest polychrome monument in the world." Pope Leo XIII suggested that on Judgment Day, the Duomo's beauty would carry it right up to Heaven. And soon, the place may make an even bigger impression on modern-day visitors. Some time this year workers are due to complete restoration that has kept the church's spectacular Signorelli interior frescoes behind scaffolding for more than a year.

Orvieto sits on a tilted table top, its high end about 300 meters

above the green valley below. Approaching by train or car, visitors first pass through the modern, homely part of town, known as Orvieto Scalo, at the base of the table. From there, a traveler can either drive up the hill to fight for a rare parking space, park and take a bus, or ride the funicular railway (less than \$1 for an adult round trip) to Piazza Caven, from which buses make the brief run to the Piazza del Duomo.

Uptown, Via Maitani and Via del Duomo lead past souvenir shops and restaurants to the piazza in front of the Duomo. The shops offer Orvieto's other most popular products: white wine produced on neighboring estates; hand-detailed pottery, often distinguished by green coloring; lace, and ironwork. Beneath these streets and shops, the hilltop is riddled with ancient tunnels and tombs — a cause for worry over the town's physical stability and a reminder of the settlement's early human history.

Orvieto, in the westernmost region of Umbria as it gives way to Tuscany, was an Etruscan town from about the seventh century to the third century BCE, when Romans forced the Etruscans out. In later centuries, Orvieto fell under control of the Vatican and became a frequent papal retreat. The church's cornerstone was laid in 1290, on the highest ground for miles around at a site formerly occupied by another church and, before that, an Etruscan temple.

The triptych-like facade of the church, about 50 meters high, is dominated by four pillars, each elaborately sculpted with scenes from the Bible. The doorways are enormous, surrounded by sculpted bas-relief details, with stained-glass windows and glistening mosaics above. Inside and out, the church's walls are horizontally striped, the stonework alternating between white travertine and gray basalt.

By some accounts, the Duomo project began as a celebration of a reputed miracle in the nearby town of Bolsena: A Bavarian

priest, on a pilgrimage to grapple with his doubts about the doctrine of transubstantiation (the point in the Catholic Mass at which wine and wafers are said to be transformed into Jesus' blood and body), saw Jesus' blood materialize, in the shape of Jesus' face, on a white linen altar cloth.

Some historians have also theorized, however, that 1290 was an opportune time for the Vatican to raise an intimidating structure to discourage the developing independence of towns in that area of the countryside.

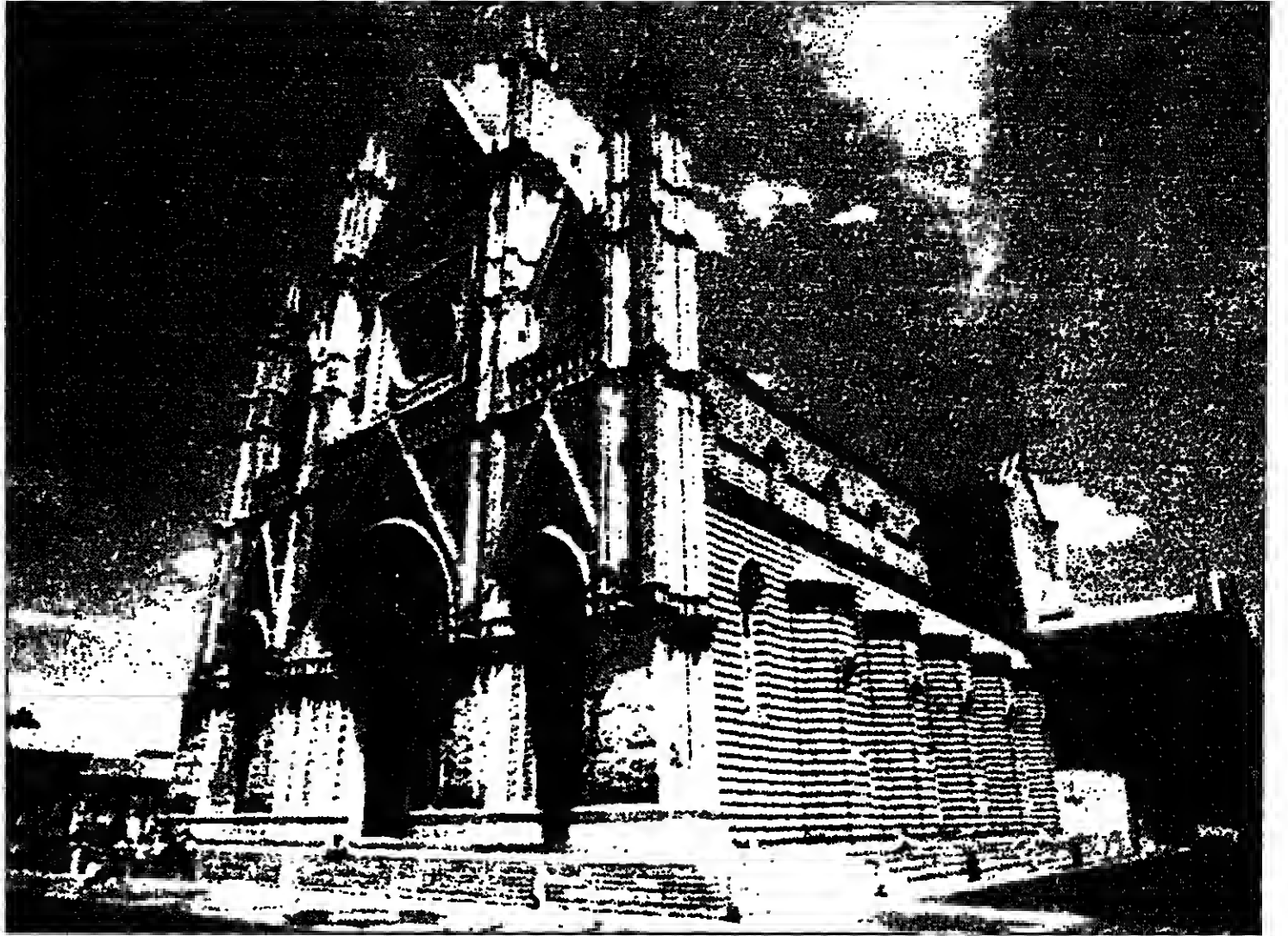
Either way, it was an immense project, and one that the church and town clung to even after the murderous arrival of the Black Death in 1348. The Duomo wasn't completed until 1580, and by that time, according to one historian's count, it had become the joint product of 33 architects, 152 sculptors, 68 painters and 90 mosaicists.

And the work didn't end in the 16th century. My favorite part of the building, the brilliant mosaic work on the upper facade, is actually a replacement, added in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries to cover for earlier mosaics apparently removed by agents of Rome.

The bronze doors are even more recent, the product of work from 1964-1970.

The original architect is unknown, but great credit is usually heaped upon Lorenzo Maitani of Siena, who took over in 1310 and spent about 30 years guiding construction — including the detail work on the four pillars that dominate the church facade — as ongoing redesign transformed the plan from Romanesque to Gothic.

In the Duomo's chapel lies the church's greatest interior treasure and, unfortunately, one recently obscured from public view. There, restorers are working on a cycle of frescoes by Luca Signorelli that is widely considered to be one of the crowning artistic achievements of the Italian Renaissance. The cycle includes a Last Judgment that was painted from



Eternal creation: Orvieto's cathedral, partly shrouded for restoration.

(Christopher Reynolds/Los Angeles Times)

1499-1504 and is said to have heavily influenced the execution of another judgment scene about 40 years later — Michelangelo's, in the Sistine Chapel.

Signorelli painted himself as a bystander at the Sermon of the Antichrist, and elsewhere is said to have included the face of his unfaithful girlfriend on the body of a prostitute writhing in hell. Other frescoes are the work of Fra Angelico and various others, mostly from the 15th century.

There is more to Orvieto than the church, of course. The

Church of San Giovenale looks down onto orchards from its rock base. On the edge of town lie Etruscan tombs. I missed the market held in the Piazza del Popolo on Thursdays and Saturdays, but the narrow, stony streets around it are full of medieval character.

Near the Piazza Caven, on the way up the hill into the highest and oldest quarter of town, lies the Pozzo di Sao Patricio, a 16th-century well that is about 70 meters deep and wide enough to accommodate two spiral staircases.

Pressed for time, I decided I could live without seeing that or paying the fee of about \$4.

Instead, I wandered around the pleasant (and free) public gardens on the site of an ancient fortress, still rimmed by ancient walls and surrounded by a commanding view of the checkerboard farmland below. It was near here that erosion and landslides threatened the hilltop town's stability in the late 1970s. Italian leaders in the last 15 years have waged a costly campaign to shore up the hilltop. The town also has several muse-

ums, including the Museo Archeologico Nazionale, the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo and the Museo Claudio Faina — but many of their galleries have been closed for years for reorganization or upgrading, and those that are open are not the most arresting in Italy, or even in Umbria.

It would be nice to spend a night in town and make time for lingering in such places, but the truth is, most travelers in Rome could make Orvieto a day trip without much guilt.

(Los Angeles Times)



In Qumran, some visitors come to believe they are biblical prophets.

(R. Nowitz)

Qumran: A place for fantasies

QUMRAN is more than just an archaeological site — it is a place where thousands of people express and sometimes act out their religious beliefs and fantasies.

That is the view of Ya'acov Dahan, director of the site at which the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Only recently, Dahan relates, two excited French tourists rushed up to say they had just discovered another scroll in the hills to the west of the site.

Recalling that only a few months ago an ostracoon (a fragment containing an inscription) had been found at the site, Dahan rushed after them along the path up the hillside. What the French tourists had found, he says with a smile, was the top of the bulb of a fall flower, whose dried layers could have been mistaken for a rolled manuscript.

Dahan, a religious Jew who studies the Talmud daily, is most irritated by the comments of guides and — sometimes — even scholars whose mistakes are rooted in ignorance of the Jewish sources.

Although most Christian scholars have rejected the view that the Qumran community was the source of early Christianity, it is common to hear guides refer to the site as a monastery.

"One priest refused to believe me when I told him that the bones of women, as well as men, had been found buried nearby," he says.

Others have far more profound fantasies. On more than one occasion, visitors have come up to him to tell him they are biblical prophets, he says.

Dahan himself has his own theories. He recalls a passage in the Talmud describing a group of people who lived near the Dead Sea and who pledged to be life-long Nazirites, following the biblical guidelines not to drink wine, cut their hair or be defiled by a corpse. Convinced that this is the group

SEE IT HERE
HAIM SHAPIRO

that lived at Qumran, he says an archeologist who participated in the original excavations under the direction of Fr. Roland de Vaux told him no sign of wine had been found and many of those buried here had long hair.

Meanwhile, even those without religious fantasies can enjoy a visit. Although the ruins can be confusing, even the amateur can identify the many ritual baths there and wonder at technology which kept them filled.

For good walkers and climbers who are ready for a

hike of a few hours, there is a path from the site which leads to the plateau to the west. According to Dahan, this was the same path used by the residents of Qumran to the site at which they recited their daily prayers.

Following recent rains, those who do the climb should not only be rewarded with a magnificent view of the Dead Sea, but also with a wealth of wild flowers. However, there is also a fine view, if a little less spectacular, from the excavation site itself.

Qumran is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is NIS 10 for adults, NIS 5 for children.

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A 65-year-old is to get a 65 percent discount, someone who is 100 is to get a free room, and anyone that is 120 is to receive a rebate equal to 20 percent of his room's price. The chain has also teamed up with 19 airlines to give frequent flyer points and benefits.

THE fight to attract customers for summer tours is continuing. Ophir Tours has announced that it is offering clients the choice of a free cellular phone or the option of paying one-third down in cash and the rest in 18 monthly installments.

PEOPLE in a hurry can now visit Jordan with Galilee Tours via Royal Jordanian Airlines. The two-night tour, which leaves on Fridays and Tuesdays, includes Petra, Madaba, Mt. Nebo, and Jerash, an itinerary which usually takes four days on a bus tour. Prices range from \$399 to \$469, depending on the type of accommodation.

TRAVEL TIPS
HAIM SHAPIRO

YOU DON'T have to be healthy to travel. The Israel Diabetes Association is organizing a 14-night tour to the Czech Republic and Vienna, which includes sight-seeing and a stay in a Czech spa. The \$1,400 price tag includes flights, accommodations, tours, and medical treatments. An Israeli doctor is to accompany the group.

FOR THOSE who don't have to worry about their diets, culinary tours of Burgundy, with six days of wining and dining in some of France's best restaurants, are being organized by City Tours of Tel Aviv. The price of the tour is \$2,300, with discounts available for holders of Gold Mastercards.

WITH THE introduction of its new Boeing 767 on Sunday afternoon flights to Israel, KLM is offering a round-trip fare of \$489 to Amsterdam and to London Stansted Airport. The offer is valid until June 9.

ARKIA IS offering those 29 and under a four-night vacation in Eilat for NIS 462, including airfare from Tel Aviv and accommodation in a room for four. The offer is valid until July 1.

AMERICAN Airlines has announced that its VUSA price for the coming year is to start at \$299 for three flights, going up to \$329 during July and August. The prices are valid for flights to Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

ALTHOUGH some passengers may never experience it, there are airlines which try to ease the boarding process by calling a lim-

ited number of rows at a time to board. Now Lufthansa is going one step further by introducing a system whereby it first asks passengers holding window seats to board the plane, then gradually fills the plane towards the center. The airline says the system eases congestion in the aisles, even for passengers with bulky bags and coats.

The German national airline also has a special round-trip fare to Munich of \$475 for passengers leaving Tel Aviv on the company's Saturday flight.

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Sunday June 9
ANCIENT SYNAGOGUES OF GALILEE
After Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 CE, Jewish leaders fled to Eretz Yehuda and, after the Bar Kochba rebellion, to Galilee, where Jewish life began to flourish again. The tour leaves from Jerusalem, and picks up in Tel Aviv. Then we visit the Arbel, Tiberias, Kfar Nahum, and Peki'in. The tour guide is Yoni Shapiro, and the cost, which includes entrance to all sites, a full lunch, and transportation in air-conditioned coaches, is NIS170.

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'Sorry, no Israelis today'

Liat Collins reports on a royal snub to local journalists visiting Denmark

SOMETHING is rotten in the state of Denmark. Despite the traditional ties between Jerusalem and Copenhagen and the warmth the Danish people show Israeli visitors, a group of Israelis became a royal embarrassment to the Danish government last week.

Top government officials in the country which actively sought to save its Jews from the Holocaust were so concerned about playing down the ties between the two countries, due to the fighting in Lebanon, that the queen stood up her guests. It was the day before the Kana tragedy. As one of the recipients of the royal snub, I was reminded of the saying that just because you're paranoid it doesn't mean no one's trying to get you.

I was one of six Israeli reporters invited by the Danish Foreign Ministry to preview the planned visit to Jordan and Israel by Queen Margrethe II. The tour was scheduled for mid-May. "One cannot give in to terrorism. The tour will go ahead as planned," the Danish palace repeatedly stated.

The reporters were feted by the friendly Danish ambassador at his Herzliya home and given information packs to rouse the appetite.

The queeo appears to be perfect. She's an attractive blonde who moonlights as a successful artist, stage designer, translator, and writer. Her subjects love her. She loves her husband. Her son has just married a Hong Kong businesswoman about as far removed from Britain's Princess Diana as you can get.

In short, it's a royal family that seems set to live happily ever after.

The offer to see such a fairytale family in a palace outside Copenhagen was very attractive. For a few days we could forget the shelling in the North, leave the nervousness of the major cities, and allow our adrenaline levels to drop.

We left emergency numbers with our families - in case heaven forbid anyone should try to blow up the No. 18 bus or Dizengoff while we were not looking.

We packed our bags - no mean feat when you have to find something travel-proof, comfortable and suitable for a royal interview. And stinging. "Wonderful. Wonderful Copenhagen," we set off for the European country with the clearest conscience as far as



Queen Margrethe II and her family. What seemed to be a Hans Christian Andersen fairytale turned sour when she cancelled her planned visit to Israel.

the Jews are concerned. We zipped around the capital on a sightseeing trip, tasted the local beer, and watched Danes waking up from hibernation after the harshest winter in a decade. It was the first day of sunshine in months. We politely traded those inanities common to all Israelis abroad about having brought the good weather with us.

On Tuesday morning we did the ultimate tourist hit: watching the changing of the guard in front of the royal palace. It was the queen's birthday.

The plaza was filled with the oarest the Danes could manage to a crowd. Hundreds of blond schoolchildren waved their flags and called up to the palace windows: "Queen, queen, come out or we won't go home." I later regretted not learning that phrase by heart.

It was delightful. All ice cream and flags. The only soldiers in sight were for decoration. Wearing tall fur hats and blue and red uniforms, they looked about as prepared to deal with an emergency as the wooden doll models you can buy in all the souvenir shops.

Eventually Margrethe II stepped onto the balcony with her husband, children and mother. She gave the sort of royal wave which can only be performed by someone who inherited the right genes. The crowd went wild. We all waved back.

People asked where we came from. We said "Israel" and the response was "God bless you"; "We're with you"; "We're thinking of you." Life momentarily resembled the happy part of a Hans Christian Andersen fairytale.

ON Wednesday morning, I woke

up and looked at my diary. "Interview queen" was inked into the 2:30 slot. I should have used a pencil.

The plan was to tour the Louisiana Museum (which was excellent) and then to travel to Fredensborg Palace.

At a hotel nearby we were to meet the lord chamberlain and the queen's private secretary, who was to brief us on the dos and don'ts of interviewing Danish royalty. We arrived on time, dressed up and on our best behavior. The Daos did not appreciate how much of an effort that cost us.

Instead of the lord chamberlain, however, an extremely embarrassed Foreign Ministry official met us and as gently as possible said the meeting was inexplicably off. The same lord chamberlain who was to show us how to behave did not show us the courtesy of giving an excuse and apology. It took a few minutes for the truth to sink in.

If the queen had canceled our interview and not sent anyone to apologize, the reason was "not royal ill-health or even a royal scheduling problem. It was as near a political statement as a queen is allowed to make. "Sorry, no Israelis today."

Even the Danish Foreign Ministry officials could not believe this was happening in their land of peace, politeness and the perfect monarchy. The official reason was supplied in the evening with the help of Danish journalists who asked the Foreign Ministry to respond to what became a major story in no-news land. The interview was off because the queeo's visit was indefinitely postponed.

"We are under the impression that the royal tour would not

receive the appropriate coverage," said the ministry press release.

"What the hell kind of statement is that?" asked a Danish tabloid the next day.

We were a little more polite when we met with Foreign Minister Niels Peterseu. "Perhaps the coverage would have been more appropriate if you had allowed representatives of the Israeli press to interview Her Majesty as planned," I ventured.

Peterseu would be an asset to any government. No matter what we asked, the answer was always obscure.

To a large extent he continued quoting his own press release. More tellingly, he frequently quoted European Uoioo statements and stunts.

Forewarned by our Danish counterparts, we asked whether the decision had been made at the EU's request or in consultation with Brussels. The "no" we received seemed too emphatic to be true.

Suddenly one "wonderful" seemed to suffice as a description of Copenhagen.

From covering a story we became the object of one, interviewed by Danish journalists who could not believe the queen had stood us up.

And then nasty thoughts replaced our cynicism. If reporters knew where to find us, so might any terrorist in Europe looking for an easy target. We managed to ignore the idea until we saw the news footage of Greek tourists slain in Cairo simply for being mistaken for Israelis.

That night we packed our bags without caring whether our clothes crumpled. We wanted to go home. Israel suddenly seemed safer than abroad.

Arriving at Ben-Gurion Airport, it was a pleasure to fight with the taxi driver, discuss "The Situation," and see the Independence Day flags waving. Your Majesty, you don't know what you're missing.

Forgetting where to remember

GRAPEVINE
GREER FAY CASHMAN

EXPERIENCED though they are, even the drivers and security escorts of prime ministers can occasionally get lost - and that's what happened on Remembrance Day when Prime Minister Shimon Peres was being driven to the official service at Mount Herzl. A wrong turn resulted in a delay causing the Prime Minister and Defense Minister to have to exit his car not on Mount Herzl as planned, but in the Jerusalem Forest when the 11 a.m. siren was sounded in honor of the fallen.

THE PRIME Minister missed out on the start of the ceremony, but Sam Alexander, President of the American Veterans of Israel (AVI), missed out altogether. Alexander was scheduled to make the keynote address at the Machal memorial service at Sha'ar Hagai, and came specially to Israel with a group of veteran volunteers from the US. Stationed in Jerusalem, while en route to the ceremony the group stopped to look at one of the many interesting sites along the way and got off the bus. When they reboarded, no one noticed that Alexander was missing, and his absence was detected only when they arrived at the ceremony. AVI vice president David Kaplan, a former member of the Alitya Bet ship *Ben Hecht*, delivered the greetings instead.

FOLLOWING AN introduction in Paris, international impresario Lily Zarfati enlisted the help of Raya Jaglom - who as well as being a long-time activist on behalf of Soviet Jewry is also a well-known patron of the arts - to bring the St. Petersburg Ballet Theater, with whom she has been working for eight years, to Israel. The audience at Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium went wild at the ballet's Israel premier last week of *Don Quixote*. Speaking emotionally at a post-performance reception hosted by Jaglom, St. Petersburg Ballet founder and choreographer Boris Etkin, who is Jewish, said that his late parents had wanted to live here, and that it had long been his dream to bring his ballet to Israel. Asked whether he would be prepared to set up residence, he shook his head and replied "I won't live here because I can never get a ballet company in Israel like the one I have in St. Petersburg. But I want to come here often with my company. If I ever stop being a choreographer, I will come to live here." The bulk of the first-night audience were Russian immigrants many of whom were already familiar with Etkin's work in the old country. At the end of the performance they literally besieged the stage, showing the dancers with flowers and affection. Also in the audience were British ambassador David Manning and his wife Kathryn who had served in Moscow before coming to Israel and are now preparing for the arrival of their own British Royal Ballet in June.

POLITICS CREEP into everything, including ballet programs. MK Ephraim Gur, who heads one of the immigrant parties seeking Knesset seats, had two Russian-language campaign brochures inserted in the St. Petersburg Ballet Theater program, which was sold for NIS 11. Promoting himself as a man for all seasons, Gur included photographs of himself with both Yitzhak Rabin and Yitzhak Shamir. And to put a kashrut stamp on his crossing the floor, there was also a photo with Ezer Weizman on the same page.

AT HIS annual Independence Day reception for the diplomatic corps, President Weizman, included Jordanian ambassador Omar Rifai and Foreign Minister Ehud Barak in his greetings, referring to the latter as "my good friend the Foreign Minister, who still looks unfamiliar



For Remembrance Day, a frazzled Peres ended up in the woods, while Barak could have been mistaken for a journalist at Weizman's Independence Day reception. (Isaac Harari)



Raya Jaglom helped bring St. Petersburg's ballet here for the first time.

to me out of uniform." The buzz of conversation which had subsided while Weizman was talking, resurged into a crescendo as he concluded his remarks, drowning out the voice of Prime Minister Peres who had just returned from Kiryat Shmona, where beleaguered residents had prepared a superbly frosted Independence Day cake. Proving that he hadn't lost his ability to command, Weizman called loudly and decisively for silence. Thanking everyone for their sympathy and interest with regard to the situation in the north, Peres promised that this latest chapter in the story of Israel's conflicts with her enemies "will have a happy end." Both Peres and Weizman along with Foreign Ministry director general Uri Savir spent a great deal of time talking to Egyptian ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny and US ambassador Martin Indyk. Also seen engaging in deep discussion with both these ambassadors was business tycoon Ya'acov Nimrod. Barak could have been mistaken by anyone who didn't know him for a news reporter. The minister carries a pen and a spiral notebook in his left inner breast pocket, and jots down notes about matters raised in conversation.

INTERDEPENDENCE between Israel and the Palestinians - which was the main thrust of addresses made last Friday to the new generation of the Jerusalem Economic Forum by former GSS chief Karmi Gilon and former State Revenues Director Yoram Gabbai - was demonstrated almost simultaneously in Tel Aviv when Nabih Sha'ath, who holds the Palestinian Authority's foreign affairs portfolio, stood in for Foreign Minister Ehud Barak at the Industrial and Commercial Club's luncheon at the Sheraton Hotel. And that was even before the Palestinian National Council voted to amend the anti-Israel articles in the PLO covenant.

"WE ARE in what has become the largest and most beautiful park in

Jerusalem. This was a gardeo in Jerusalem only in name. It was never in good shape till the Wilis came," chairman of the international council of the Jerusalem Foundation and former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek said at the dedication of the Harry Wilf Park in Jerusalem's Independence Park. Dressed in a dark grey suit, marine blue shirt, with darker blue tie and matching handkerchief in his breast pocket, Kollek, who next month celebrates his 85th birthday, was a picture of informal sartorial elegance until one looked at his feet. He was wearing sneakers, which even though they didn't quite go with the suit, at least had color trims which matched the tie.

ONE OF the few remaining founding members of Israel Television's IBA News team, Steve Leibowitz is one of several hundred international journalists who have been invited along with six presidents and two Nobel laureates to Atlanta, Georgia, to participate in the CNN World Report Conference. CNN developed the conference to show appreciation for the year-round commitment of contributing journalists. Leibowitz will get a chance to meet 1995 Nobel Peace Prize laureate and crusader against nuclear weapons, Joseph Rotblat (who is of Polish Jewish origin), and former US President Jimmy Carter. He may also find time to meet his old boss Israel Consul Arty Mekeel, who was director general of the Israel Broadcasting Authority when Leibowitz first joined the IBA. But the highlight of the visit next week for sports enthusiasts Leibowitz, will be when he attends a baseball game in which the Colorado Rockies will be pitted against the world champion Atlanta Braves.

SOME OF the members of the diplomatic corps who had made almost daily shuttles between the coastal plain and Jerusalem over the last week, were in the capital yet again on Thursday to participate in the annual ANZAC Day ceremony at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery on Mount Scopus. They were later hosted at a reception at St. Andrew's Scottish Church by Australian Ambassador Peter Rogers and his wife Sandy.

FOR MOST of the 150 or so mainly ex-American guests, who congregate annually at the Jerusalem home of Sarah and Abaron Roth, the Independence Day get-together is by way of a reunion. The Roths, who helped Teddy Kollek bring arms to Israel in the early days of the state, have been living in their gracious German Colony home since May 1, 1949. Among those present on Tuesday night were Hans and Murray Greenfield, Malka Gordon, David Alexander, Shoshana Golding, David and Shoshana Zacker and many other generally unsung heroes who had a hand in both the creation and the building of the State.

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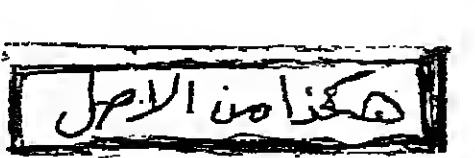
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1996

15

Beilin team looking to cut 25 percent of cabinet portfolios

Jerusalem Post Staff

A PLAN to merge, dissect, and abolish various government ministries, with the aim of reducing the total number of portfolios by 25 percent, is being devised by an expert team in the Prime Minister's Office.

The team, assembled by Minister Without Portfolio Yossi Beilin and headed by Dr. Alon Liel, who was director-general of the Economics Ministry until its recent dissolution, is reconsidering the costs of and needs for such ministries as Communications, Agriculture, Tourism, Energy, Internal Security, and Industry and Trade. However, Liel yesterday denied the existence of a comprehensive blueprint, and said only that "ideas are being floated from various bureaucratic and academic quarters," with the general aim of shrinking the cabinet, while expanding the directly elected premier's administrative sway.

According to the bill for the direct election of the prime minister, which will be implemented for the first time in next month's poll, the cabinet is to consist of 18 ministers at most. Today's cabinet has 22 ministers managing 20 ministries. Beilin's team is aiming to reduce the number of portfolios to 15. "The Prime Minister's Office must be strengthened," Liel explained, "since after the new bill the premier will cease to be first among equals, and become first period."

Senior Treasury officials would not comment on rumors suggesting the team is also weighing the transfer of the Finance Ministry's powerful Budget Department, Government Companies Authority, and the Civil Service Commission to the Prime Minister's Office, as part of a plan ostensibly aimed at reducing the Treasury's power.

Largest-ever trade party from Taiwan here tomorrow

Jerusalem Post Staff and agencies

ONLY 24 hours before the largest ever trade delegation from Taiwan arrives here, Beijing announced that it has no objections to non-governmental exchanges between Jerusalem and Taipei, but strongly opposes a ministerial-level visit.

The 50 Taiwanese businessmen are to be accompanied by Taiwanese Deputy Economics Minister Lee Shu-jeou Yuan.

During the 10-day visit, the delegation will meet with Israeli officials and executives and hold the first bilateral conference on economic and technological cooperation. Taiwan wants stronger cooperation with Israel in aviation, information, telecommunications, and biotechnology, an organizer of the journey said in Taipei.

Jerusalem and Taipei are believed to have had good bilateral relations for years, but never in an open, official framework. Lee's presence is opposed by Beijing, according to Embassy Political Counselor Chen Lai Yuan. While his government appreciates Israel's "one China policy," the trade mission must not include deals of a military nature with Taipei, he said.

The Foreign Ministry maintains Lee's visit is entirely non-political. During his stay he will not meet politicians, though he will meet with Industry and Trade Ministry Director-General

Yossi Snir. The Foreign Ministry maintains there is no reason for this to cause any damage to relations with China.

First Secretary at the Chinese Embassy in Tel Aviv Yuebang Zhang said Beijing is aware of the visit and does not oppose non-governmental, economic, cultural, or tourist visits to countries that have diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. However, he added Beijing will "firmly oppose Taiwan using trade in its attempt to create two Chinas, or one China and one Taiwan."

China has been viewing Taiwan as a secessionist region, and actively fighting its relentless attempts to develop its own diplomatic network for nearly half a century.

Koor wants insurance sector stake

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

KOOR Industries, Israel's largest holding company, is considering purchasing a major stake in an insurance company as part of its strategy to increase its activities in the financial services sector.

Sources in the insurance industry said Koor is considering several possibilities, including a major investment in a foreign company. The source emphasized Koor is still in the preliminary stage and has not yet entered negotiations.

According to *Ma'ariv*, Koor CEO and President Benny Gaon has already met with the Greenberg family, the owners of the American insurance group which intends to increase its insurance business in Israel. It was also reported that Gaon has met with representatives of the Phoenix group, regarding the purchase of one of its subsidiaries.

A Koor spokesperson confirmed the company is checking out the possibility of entering the

insurance field, but refused to elaborate.

Koor is already engaged in the insurance field through Koor Insurance Agencies, established a year ago to handle all of the group's insurance policies. Industry sources said Koor's decision to increase its involvement in the field reflects management's belief that the sector will reap high profits in the future.

Koor decided to increase its involvement in the financial services field more than two years ago. Since then, the company has set up Koor Capital, which is engaged in portfolio management, underwriting management, and several weeks ago also entered the pension fund field with the establishment of the Netiv fund.

Japan's vehicle exports fall to 20-year low

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japan's exports of cars and other vehicles in the last fiscal year shrank to their lowest level in 20 years, as the strong yen forced Japanese makers to move more production abroad.

Japan's vehicle exports in the fiscal year ended March 1996 fell 16.7 percent from the previous year to 3.62 million, the fourth straight year of decline; the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said yesterday.

The 1995/96 export figure was just under the 3.82 million vehicles exported in 1976/77, but above the 2.99 million in 1975/76, the industry body said.

"The fall in 1995/96 was bigger than earlier expected. The strong yen against the dollar in and after April last year forced Japanese makers to reduce exports particularly to the United States," an official with the body said.

"If the yen/dollar rate remains at its present level, Japan's vehicle exports are unlikely to avoid posting another two-digit decline in 1996/97," Exports depend on the value of the yen," the official said.

The dollar has made great strides since its fall to a postwar

global low of 79.75 yen on April 19, 1995. It stood at around 107 yen yesterday afternoon in Tokyo.

A strong yen is the Achilles heel of Japan's giant economy since it slashes export income and makes home-made products less competitive abroad.

Hiroshi Suemasa, a senior analyst of Kankaku Research, said he saw exports continuing to fall this fiscal year.

"I have revised downward Japan's vehicle exports to 3.0 to 3.1

million units in 1996/97 mainly because the yen's value against the dollar is expected to move towards at least 97-98 in June or July this year, and as Japanese makers are increasingly shifting production to their overseas units.

"It is unclear yet whether slow exports in and after April will continue. A certain level of concern about hollowing out would appear if Japanese automobile industry cannot maintain an output level of 10 million units," he said.

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Supreme Court begins hearing appeal of bank directors

EVELYN GORDON

THE Supreme Court yesterday began hearing an appeal by five directors of the failed North American Bank against a lower court judgment requiring them to pay for the bank's losses.

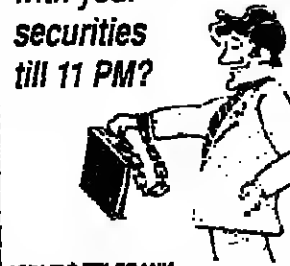
After North American Bank's directors were found guilty of crimes leading to the bank's collapse, the government, in 1989, sued them for about NIS 653 million in losses. Jerusalem District Court ruled in its favor.

Some directors accepted the verdict or reached a settlement with the government, but Joseph Nakash, Erwin Sussman, Dan Barzilai, Ya'acov Horowitz, and Gedalia Buchintzer appealed.

The hearing was devoted mainly to how responsibility for the collapse should be divided between the directors and the substitutes they had appointed. Attorneys Amnon Shibolei and Joel Silber, representing Nakash and Sussman, argued that once they appointed the substitutes, all responsibility devolved onto them. Attorney Joseph Segev, representing the government, countered that neither had resigned; they therefore continued to bear the full responsibility, and the substitutes were no more than deputies who reported to them.

The hearing will continue at a later date.

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THE ECONOMIC FORUM

In conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism, together with the Association for Promoting Tourism in Israel, the Jerusalem Development Authority, the East Jerusalem Development Company and the Jerusalem Hotel Association

Jerusalem as an International Tourism Center in the Era Of Peace

Seminar and Gala Dinner, under the patronage of
Minister of Tourism, Uzi Baram
Sunday, May 12, 1996 at 6:30 p.m.
in the Teddy Auditorium, International Congress Center, Binyanei Ha'uma, Jerusalem.
in the presence of Mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert MK
Chairman: Eil Gonen, Director General, Ministry of Tourism

Speakers:
Amos Mar-Haim, Chairman of the Jerusalem Development Authority • Ya'acov Efrati, Dir.-Gen. of the Jerusalem Municipality
Amnon Lorch, Chairman of the East Jerusalem Development Co.
Gabriel Cartes, architect • Advocate Yehuda Raveh • Yossi Taigan
Guest Speaker: Benny Gaon, Managing Director of Koor Industries Ltd.

Moderator: Gad Lior, Head of the Jerusalem Bureau, Yedi'ot Aharonot

Honorary Executive Committee (in alphabetical order):
Shaika Altuvia, Minister Uzi Baram, Yoram Belizovsky, Eilahu Ben-Elissar MK, Naomi Blumenthal MK, Doron Cohen, Ran Cohen MK, Moshe Dovrat, Ya'acov Efrati, Avi Golan, Shmuel Halevi, Tzahi Hanegbi MK, Yonatan Harpaz, Dalle Itzik MK, Yehuda Levy, Gad Lior, Amos Mar-Haim, Yehoshua Matza MK, Shmuel Mair, Eli Mizrahi, Eli Moyal, Meir Nitzan, Mevor Ehud Olmert MK, Yosef Peartman, Adv. Yehuda Raveh, Adv. Yosef Richter, Uri Scharf, Prof. Arye Shahar, Silvan Shalom MK, Adv. Yossi Shapiro, Minister Shimon Shetret, Matti Tal, Rafi Wiener, Avi Yahuda'at, Mordechai Yona, Mosha Zigdon, Emanuel Zisman MK, Shimon Zurieil

Chairman: Israel Isaacs
Legal Advisors: Adv. Ze'ev Weil, Adv. Yitzhak Mina
Advisor for Planning and Land Development: Adv. Tamar Raveh
Accountant: Matti Ganor

The seminar is intended for:
Entrepreneurs, company presidents and directors, board members, director generals, tourism and airline companies, travel agencies, urban planners, lawyers, industrialists, deputy director generals, financial managers, architects, economists, engineers, accountants, land assessors, investment advisers, contractors, advertising agents, marketing consultants, owners of investment companies, professionals and key figures in the economy.

Those intending to participate in the Forum are requested to fill out the following form:

To: The Economic Forum,
I plan to attend the dinner on Sunday, May 12, 1996 at 6:30 p.m.
Registration fee - Forum members - NIS 120; guests - NIS 200.

Name _____ Place of work _____ Position _____
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Home address _____
Tel. (w) _____ Tel. (h) _____ Fax _____
Enclosed is my check payable to The Economic Forum Only 2 Shmuel Hanagid, Jerusalem 94592, POB 1369, Tel. 02-244789, Fax. 02-246888
I will pay by credit card - American Express Isiacard Diners Visa
No. _____ Exp. date _____ I.D. No. _____
Signature _____

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THE JERUSALEM POST
BANK HAPOLIM

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patish (foreign currency deposit rates) (25.4.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (250,000)	4.855	4.825	5.000
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.125	4.250	4.500
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.750	1.750	2.000
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.575	0.575	0.625
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (25.4.96)

Currency basket	CHEQUES AND TRANSFERS	BANKNOTES	Rep. Rate
U.S. dollar	3.5179	3.5747	3.5477
U.S. dollar	3.1516	3.2025	3.1800
German mark	2.0840	2.0973	2.0800
French franc	4.7953	4.8412	4.8000
Japanese yen (100)	0.0117	0.0216	0.0160
Dutch guilder	1.8444	1.8741	1.8715
Swiss franc	2.3348	2.3951	2.3500
Swedish krona	0.4654	0.4740	0.4600
Norwegian krona	0.4939	0.4987	0.4900
Denmark krone	0.5354	0.5441	0.5300
Finland mark	0.0527	0.0533	0.0500
Canadian dollar	2.3050	2.3453	2.3200
Australian dollar	2.4779	2.5179	2.5000
S. African rand	0.7254	0.7321	0.7300
British pound (£10)	1.0040	1.0252	1.0121
Australian shilling (10)	2.3941	2.3915	2.3950
Italian lire (1000)	2.0235	2.0562	2.0275
Japanese yen	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004
Egyptian pound	3.9858	3.9891	3.9850
Israeli sheqel	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4880	2.5291	2.5000

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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مكتبة الامم

Key Representative Rates

Table with 2 columns: Currency and Rate. Includes US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates.

NYSE STOCK MARKETS

Table with 2 columns: Index Name and Last Change. Includes DJ Industrials, DJ Transport, etc.

New York market indexes

Table with 2 columns: Index Name and Last Change. Includes FTSE 100, Nikkei, etc.

Israeli stocks in NY

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Last Change. Lists various Israeli companies.

NYSE AMEX

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Last Change. Lists NYSE AMEX stocks.

NASDAQ / over-the-counter

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Last Change. Lists NASDAQ and OTC stocks.

LIBOR

Table with 2 columns: Term and Last Change. Lists LIBOR rates for various terms.

INFLATION

Table with 2 columns: Index Name and Last Change. Lists inflation indices.

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TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Table with 3 columns: Name, Price, Change. Lists Tel Aviv stocks under Multi-sided trading.

Two-sided trading

Table with 3 columns: Name, Price, Change. Lists Tel Aviv stocks under Two-sided trading.

Investment Companies

Table with 3 columns: Name, Price, Change. Lists investment companies.

Property, Building & Agriculture

Table with 3 columns: Name, Price, Change. Lists property and agriculture stocks.

Trade & Services

Table with 3 columns: Name, Price, Change. Lists trade and services stocks.

Oil Exploration

Table with 3 columns: Name, Price, Change. Lists oil exploration stocks.

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TEL AVIV STOCKS

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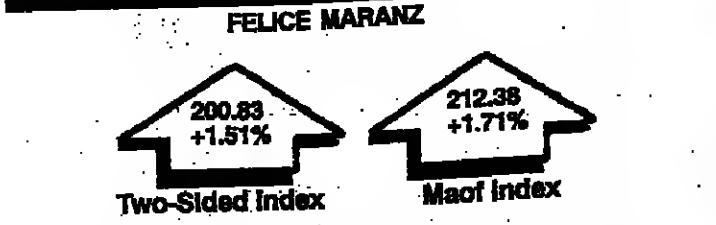
Oil Exploration

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TASE rises amid optimism on interest rates

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ



STOCKS on the TASE surged in the week amid optimism that the Bank of Israel's decision Sunday to raise the rate at which it lends to banks will be the last rate increase in the near future.

Yesterday, the Maof Index rose 1.71 percent to 212.38 and the Two-Sided Index rose 1.51 percent to 200.83. Of 993 issues trading across the exchange, nearly three times as many shares rose as fell.

In the week, the Maof Index rose about 2.3% and the Two-Sided rose about 1.9%.

The most active share yesterday was Bezeq Ltd., which rose 1.25% as NIS 4.8 million worth of shares changed hands.

After the central bank announced it would lift rates 0.8% on Sunday, investors figured it can't get any worse, said Arich Avoz, vice president at Tel Aviv investment firm Central Securities. "People are now starting to be optimistic that the stock is behind us."

The Maof Index fell 1.55% on Sunday and then rebounded to gain 1.7% on Monday. The exchange was closed on Tuesday and Wednesday for the holidays.

London shares close slightly higher

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - UK shares ended mixed to slightly higher as investors shrugged off Wednesday's surprise decision by the UK government to block two key takeover bids in the electricity sector.

The FTSE 100 index ended 1.7 points higher at 3,819.3.

FRANKFURT - Floor trade closed with the DAX index of 30 blue-chip German shares marginally lower after a lack of buying interest in the market hurt sentiment.

The DAX closed the day at 2,532.41 points, down 5.85 points or 0.23 percent, below the psychologically crucial 2,540-point level. In post-bourse trade, the Dax stood at 2,538.68 up 33.84.

TOKYO - The Topix index surged to end at its highest level since June 13, 1994, further evidence of the market's current strength. Brokers said although the Nikkei ended lower, it was just a brief pause in a continuing upward trend.

The 225-share Nikkei average finished down 51.95 points, or 0.23%, at 22,230.10.

HONG KONG - Stocks closed sharply lower in wan trading, spurred by renewed weakness of US stocks and bonds overnight. The blue-chip Hang Seng Index plunged 145.31 points, or 1.33%, to close at 10,753.38.

PARIS - French shares ended modestly lower on a consolidation, following a 60-basis point cut in the five-to-10 day ceiling rate to 4.90% by the Bank of France. The CAC-40 index closed down 5.75, or 0.27%, at 2,116.35.

JOHANNESBURG - South African gold shares powered higher with key stocks scaling new peaks in busy trade as the ailing rand sank to new record lows, sparking an appetite for commodity stocks. The overall index ended 68.4 points up at 7,948.5, the industrial index was 44.2 points stronger at 8,503.1 and the gold index gained 72.1 points or almost 4% to 1,911.1.

Other broad-market indexes also turned higher after spending much of the session in negative territory.

The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite surged from a loss in the last two hours to set a new record for the sixth straight session. The index has now risen more than 7.5 percent in two weeks.

In recent weeks, technology and smaller company shares have surged amid fears that an improving economy will mean rising interest rates and inflation, impeding earnings growth for big companies.

But the Dow rebounded as prices beared their recent lows and bargain hunters came to the market, analysts said.

Technology stocks, which have been riding a wave of surprisingly strong earnings reports over the past two weeks, rebounded from some early profit-taking.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by about 6 to 5 on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,049 down and 823 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 462.12 million shares as of 4 p.m., vs. 493.34 million in the previous session.

The NYSE's composite index rose 1.33 to 350.29. The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index rose 2.70 to 652.87.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 6.37 to 1,183.20.

At the American Stock Exchange, the market value index rose 2.41 to 591.46.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table with 3 columns: MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, FF. Lists currency cross-rates.

MARK - STERLING

Table with 2 columns: MARK, STERLING. Lists mark-sterling rates.

YEN

Table with 2 columns: YEN, SF. Lists yen-sf rates.

STERLING

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NRP, UTJ sign surplus vote pact

THE National Religious Party and United Torah Judaism last night agreed to sign a surplus vote agreement, the first time since 1977 that Agudat Yisrael, the senior partner in UTJ, and the NRP have cooperated on such an agreement.

NRP leader Zevulun Hammer said the agreement signals greater cooperation between the religious parties, even though moves to unite all the religious parties in one block failed.

"Even if we were unable to unite, there is at least cooperation between the parties, which

HERB KEINON

should enhance religious representation in the next Knesset," Hammer said.

UTJ's Avraham Ravitz, however, was less philosophical. He said the decision to sign the agreement, reached at a meeting of Degel Hatorah's Council of Sages, was simply because no other party turned to the UTJ with a similar request.

UTJ signed a surplus vote agreement with Shas in the last elections. Ravitz said that although Shas did not approach the

party this year, it would have been difficult to reach an agreement because of its willingness in 1992 to join a coalition containing Meretz. The NRP did not have a surplus vote agreement with any party last time.

He said that the agreement does not in any way signify that the party is tilting toward Benjamin Netanyahu, who the NRP has already endorsed.

Ravitz said that the Council of Sages also discussed whether to endorse a candidate in the prime minister's race, but that no decision was taken.

Arab abstention threat: Emotional and political

COMMENT
ELIE REKHESS

THE Arab parties' threat to abstain from voting for Shimon Peres in the prime ministerial race is an emotional reaction just as much as it is a political maneuver.

First, it is a genuine - and understandable - expression of pain and sorrow over the tragic fate of the Lebanese civilians, many of whom are Palestinians. By applying pressure on Peres, the Arab politicians hope to help bring about a quick solution to the ongoing crisis.

At the same time, the harsh response of the Arab politicians paradoxically illustrates both the weakness of and the increasing influence of the Arab political system in Israel.

The Arab political camp is presently factionalized and fragmented. Because of the deep internal division, the Arab parties fear they might not pass the threshold or win only a limited number of Knesset seats. It is in their benefit, therefore, to raise their national pro-Arab profile and thus win the hearts of poten-

tial Arab supporters, especially from the younger generation.

Simultaneously, the Arab threats express a growing sense of power. Arab politicians assume that in case of a tight race between Netanyahu and Peres, the Arab vote could determine whether Peres would win. The Arab voters vehemently reject the notion "they are in Labor's pocket" and insist they will not automatically support Peres. They regard themselves equal to other actors in the Israeli political scene, such as the religious parties, and find it legitimate to expect to be rewarded in exchange for their support.

The present protest campaign should therefore also be interpreted as an "electioneering" effort and as an attempt to reap as much political gain as possible from the current crisis.

Dr. Rekheiss is the director of the Program on Arab Policies at the Dayan Center and a consultant to the Abraham Fund for Jewish-Arab coexistence.

COVENANT

(Continued from Page 7)

wrote a book about it. Arafat himself actually stated in his September 1993 letter to Yitzhak Rabin that "the PLO affirms that those articles of the Palestinian Covenant which deny Israel's right to exist are now inoperative and no longer valid."

In the thinking of Israel, Arafat's word on behalf of the PLO was not enough. Although Arafat was the only address for negotiations, as Rabin decided in early 1993, he wanted to be sure that the PNC, which is the broadest-based Palestinian political institution and the author of the charter, also subscribed to the changes heralded by the Oslo accords.

Now the PNC, not wishing to humiliate Arafat whose personal credibility was on the line, has decided not to contradict him, the Palestinian press echoed the view of Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) who will head final-status talks from May 4. He said, "Now Israel has no excuse not to fulfill its promises."

The ball in other words is seen as being firmly in Israel's court even before the actual amendments are made. "Now we should pursue Israel. For the Palestinians the change means a totally different way of reading the situation," wrote *Al-Nahar* in an editorial going through the standard list of Palestinian demands.



Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo (right) welcomes Ohio Governor George V. Voinovich, who opened the Ohio Regional Trade Office in Tel Aviv yesterday. The governor also met with Prime Minister Shimon Peres during the day. (Issac Harari)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two election posters banned

Two election posters have been banned by Judge Theodor Orr, who heads the Central Election Committee. A Zo Artem poster showing Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat laughing together against the background of a burned out bus, was banned following a request by the Labor Knesset faction.

Orr also agreed to a request by the joint Likud-Tsomet-Gesher list and ordered changes to posters by a group called Eshar. The poster has the words "You can't stop this peace process - peace will win." He ruled the group cannot use the first phrase in the poster, and that second cannot be used as part of an election campaign.

Liat Collins

CEC: Election material can't be translated

The Central Elections Committee cannot agree to a demand by Natan Sharansky's Yisrael Ba'alya party that election material, including ballot slips, be printed in Russian and Amharic, CEC director Tami Edri said yesterday. She said the law does not allow for any other language than the two official ones - Hebrew and Arabic - to be printed on the slips.

Sharansky said that without the translation of electoral material, the ballots, nearly 100,000 of them, are being in effect discarded since they are not being understood by Hebrew.

Liat Collins

International Pet Show tomorrow

Animal lovers are preparing for the International Pet Show scheduled to be held tomorrow at Tel Aviv's Exhibition Grounds. The event will include competitions, displays by work and rescue dogs and information stands.

Cat owners who bring a photo of their pet to the Lev Lechai stand will be given a present. Prizes will be given to winners in a competition of photos, videos or compositions showing the wisdom of cats. Friendly felines will also be available for adoption. Details available at 03-605 5150.

Liat Collins

Northerners to get NII payment advance

National Insurance Institute allotments will be advanced to 13,000 eligible residents of the North via mobile post offices and regular postal branches in the border areas, it was announced earlier this week.

Authority director-general Ran Levin said that residents of the North who receive NII pensions, allowances for the disabled, income supplements, children's allowances for three or more children and other NII payments will receive an advance of NIS 500 during the coming days.

Judy Siegel

PLO

(Continued from Page 7) those who deal only in slogans.

Despite his shortcomings, Arafat has kept his word on the big issues. For two years, he said that receiving an electoral mandate would let him fulfill his commitment to change the covenant. He has also worked harder to reduce terrorism. Of course, this progress has been achieved only with firm Israeli

and international pressure on Arafat. But outside prodding was from the outset envisioned as something that would no doubt be necessary.

There is still a long way to go, yet no one should take for granted that Israel has achieved a much-desired goal, labored for during a half century. Even with the continued fighting in Lebanon, the old Arab-Israeli conflict is dead. And good riddance to it.

Barry Rubin is author of *Revolution Until Victory? The Politics and History of the PLO* and co-editor of *The Israeli-Arab Reader*.

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Samaritans expect PA grant

THE Palestinian Authority has said that it intends to give the Samaritan community the special Pessah grant previously given by Israel, according to Peleg Al-Tiff, chairman of the Nablus-based Samaritans.

Al-Tiff said the PA had reassured him, following a report in *The Jerusalem Post* which said

the grant, promised in December, had not yet been given. The approximately 600-strong Samaritan community was to celebrate their traditional Pessah sacrifice last night. Al-Tiff strongly denied he had complained about the grant not coming, or that he had suggested it would not be forthcoming.

Haim Shapiro

Katyusha with phosphorous warhead hits panhandle

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

HIZBULLAH fired a Katyusha armed with a phosphorus warhead, which can cause severe burns and start fires, into the Galilee Panhandle five days ago. OC Intelligence Maj-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon said this indicates that Hizbullah is suffering from a dwindling rocket supply.

They are shooting whatever they can get their hands on, he said. He said the 107mm phosphorus Katyusha was from the arsenal of the Popular Front of the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and had probably been given to Hizbullah.

Though the phosphorus-tipped Katyusha was fired five days ago, it was not discovered until Wednesday, since it landed in an open field, where it set a small fire.

STALLED

(Continued from Page 1)

and Jibsheet villages. Three IDF soldiers and a woman civilian were lightly hurt as a result of Katyusha attacks on the Galilee.

The navy also continued to pound targets in south Lebanon. The air and naval attacks have destroyed many roads in the region, especially the coastal highway linking the south with Beirut.

The attacks have been aimed at preventing Hizbullah from sending reinforcements or supplies of weapons, especially Katyushas, to the south.

IDF gunners also blasted Hizbullah targets north of the security zone, but Hizbullah managed to fire over 25 Katyushas.

In another incident, a South Lebanese Army soldier was wounded when an explosive device was detonated near his sentry position guarding the main IDF-SLA headquarters in Marjayoun.

The IDF allowed a 19-vehicle Red Cross convoy carrying emergency supplies to travel from Beirut, via Sidon, to Tyre. The IDF maintains close coordination with the Red Cross and is allowing it to carry out humanitarian missions in south Lebanon, despite the ban on other travel, with the exception of UN forces.

Meanwhile, Lt-Gen. Frank van Cappen, the special envoy of UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali sent to investigate the Kana tragedy in which nearly 100 Lebanese civilians were killed, met in Tel Aviv last night with Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

Van Cappen was accompanied by UNIFIL's senior political adviser Timur Goksel, who would not divulge any details of the meeting. Van Cappen was to meet late last night with OC Northern Command Maj-Gen. Amiram Levine.

VILNA'I

(Continued from Page 1)

"The shelling was to paralyze the source of the fire that had hit our force," Vilna'i said.

He said the force had come under fire and had asked for artillery support so it could withdraw.

The officer who ordered the shelling "knew there was a UN position ... but was not aware of the number of civilians in the area," Vilna'i said. "The fire was to evacuate the soldiers and such fire has to be immediate. Because of our fire, the fire on our troops stopped immediately."

"It is clear to all of us that none of us intended to harm civilians."

He said that cloudy weather prevented the air force from deploying an unmanned reconnaissance plane over the area.

Ya'alon tried to deflect criticism that the army should have known that hundreds of refugees had sought sanctuary at the UN position in Kana and should not

have allowed it to be shelled.

"Intelligence and Northern Command collect information about what is happening on the other side, but are not supposed to be counting how many civilians are in a UN position," he said.

Since the beginning of the operation 15 days ago, Hizbullah has fired some 500 Katyushas into Israel and another 200 into the security zone. No one has been killed in the attacks.

Asked how many sorties the IAF has flown and how many artillery rounds have been fired, Vilna'i replied: "What difference does it make? Counting the number of attacks by the air force or how many rounds we have fired is not relevant. We are not only acting against Katyusha launchers, but to bring about a political process after which, we hope, south Lebanon will look different."

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הנהלת האגודה

Caps beat Pens in 4OT Mac. TA, Hap. Jerusalem win playoff openers

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Petr Nedved scored on a power play with 45 seconds left in the fourth overtime to end the third-longest game in NHL history and lift the Pittsburgh Penguins to a 3-2 victory over the Washington Capitals, evening their Eastern Conference quarter-final series at two games apiece on Wednesday.

Nedved was in the left circle and negotiated around a fallen Mark Tinordi and wristed the puck through a heavy screen into the upper left corner of the net past Oleg Kolzig.

Washington's Joe Juneau was denied by Ken Wregget on the first overtime penalty shot in NHL playoff history. The game also featured a game misconduct given to Penguins star Mario Lemieux and a total of 115 saves.

Game five is today at Pittsburgh. The home team has yet to win in the series.

Nedved scored a power-play goal, his fifth marker of the series, with 12 minutes left in regulation to tie the game at 2-2 for Pittsburgh.

Panthers 4, Bruins 2

Jody Hull scored two goals and John Vanbiesbrouck stopped 40 shots as the Florida Panthers pushed the host Bruins to the brink of elimination with a 4-2 victory in Game Three of their Eastern Conference quarter-final series.

Scott Mellanby and Mike Hoogib also scored for the Panthers.

"We've played hard and the Bruins have battled hard too," Panthers coach Doug MacLean said. "I don't think the scores have been indicative of the way the games have been played."

Vanbiesbrouck, who had stopped 79 of 84 shots in the first two games, allowed only Shawn McCaskey's goal late in the second period before Rick Tocchet tallied late in the final period. Florida has been outshot, 126-84, in the first three games but has outscored Boston, 16-7.

"I'm as disappointed as you can possibly be, realizing that our season is in trouble," Boston defenseman Don Sweeney said.

"You can use whatever cliché you want. It's not over yet, they've got to win four games, whatever."

"But we still have a job to do tomorrow night. We just have to find a way to start the game, play with a little more discipline."

There were more than 2,500 empty seats at the first-ever playoff game at the FleetCenter.

NHL PLAYOFFS
First Round (Best-of-7)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS:
Pittsburgh 3, Washington 2 (4OT)
Today: Washington at Pittsburgh (Series tied 2-2)
Florida 4, Boston 2
Last night: Florida at Boston
Tomorrow: Bos at Fla, if necessary (Florida leads series 3-0)
Last night: Tampa Bay at Philadelphia
Tomorrow: Philadelphia at Tampa Bay (Series tied 2-2)
Today: Montreal at NY (Series tied 2-2)
WESTERN CONFERENCE
Today: Winnipeg at Detroit (Detroit leads series 3-1)
Last night: St. Louis at Toronto
Tomorrow: Tor at StL, if necessary (St. Louis leads series 3-1)
Last night: Vancouver at Colorado
Tomorrow: Colorado at Vancouver (Series tied 2-2)

THE National Basketball League Upper Playoffs opened up true to form last night, with both Hapoel Jerusalem and Maccabi Tel Aviv winning the curtain-raisers in the best-of-five series.

But while Zvi Scherf's defending champs took out their State Cup frustration on Bnei Herzliya by stomping them 94-69, Cup winners Jerusalem had to hold on to fight off David Blatt's feisty Galil Elyon squad, 84-80, after leading by 22 points.

Hapoel Jerusalem 84
Hapoel Galil Elyon 80

Last night's Jerusalem-Galil Elyon game in Jerusalem seemed more party than ballgame, and coach David Blatt's club almost played party-poopers after a stirring second-half comeback which just fell short.

Jerusalem fans celebrated last week's State Cup tournament victory with songs, commemorative hats, and a pre-game victory lap around the court with the cup by some of the club's younger fans. Then coach Pini Gershon's team paraded on the floor, led by Morris Coleman.

Coleman was unstoppable, hitting two of two three-pointers and five of his seven other shots for 16 first half points. Galil was able to stay in the game early, thanks to some unexpected offense from center Pancho Hodges, who combined with Gur Shelef on an alley-oop stuff, then scored on another jump to make it 11-10, Galil's last lead of the game.

Jerusalem then went on a 9-2 run behind Coleman and Doron Shefa, whose return to form has played a major part in Jerusalem's end-of-season success. Galil refused to fold, though, with youngsters Alon Stein and Gil Sela combining to bring their club back within six at 26-20. When Billy Thompson went out with his third foul with 7:42 left in the half, Galil looked like they were in a position to grab the lead. However, three quick hoops by Jerusalem forward David Bemsley gave Jerusalem a 10-point

ARYEH DEAN COHEN and ELI GRONER

halftime bulge, 44-34.

The party got even rowdier in the second half, with Jerusalem outscoring Galil 22-10 to open things, led by Billy Thompson and Shefa. A three-pointer by Papi Turgeman with 12 minutes to play left Jerusalem ahead 66-44, a cue for the public address announcer to cue Queen's *We Are the Champions* for the umpteenth time.

Galil, however, was unconvinced by the music, suddenly remembering they had also earned an invitation to the Final Four dance. Despite being unable to practice more than once a day due to the situation in the North, the Galil players showed their mettle, clawing their way back with gritty defense and lightning-quick fastbreaks.

Nine unanswered points, ending with a Kennedy steal and dunk with 10:20 to play put Galil back in it at 66-55. Kennedy also did a fine job blanketing Coleman in the second half, who was held scoreless. While Jerusalem took bad shots, Galil never relaxed the pressure. When Gur Shelef hit a three with just under six minutes to play, Galil had mounted a 20-4 run and Jerusalem fans started to wonder whether they hadn't celebrated too early.

However, Turgeman made sure Jerusalem fans didn't have to cry at their party, hitting three straight foul shots for some breathing room. Adi Gordon and then Thompson also came up big at the foul line. But Galil wouldn't give up easily as Mark Craver hit a three-pointer to cut the lead to just 82-77, with seven seconds left.

Shefa - who had one of his best games of the year, including 15 points and several fine assists - calmly flipped in two more free throws before Hodges hit a long three to close the gap to 84-80, at least leaving a better taste in the mouths of disappointed Galil fans.

For Jerusalem, the let-down can be explained, but

not tolerated. After using up most of their emotional energy last week and in the beginning of the second half, a lapse was only to be expected. Still, there's no room for lapses if Gershon's club is going to get a shot at winning the double hoops crown this season.

As for Galil Elyon, they have nothing to be ashamed of, and with a slightly better outside game could be real trouble for Jerusalem if the latter don't put away the party hats and buckle down for the long haul through the Final Four.

Gordon was high scorer with 18, while Shelef led Galil with 17. The site of Monday night's Game 2 is still uncertain and depends on the situation in the North. If necessary, the game will be in Jerusalem, while Games 3 and, if necessary, 4 will be played at Kfar Blum.

Maccabi Tel Aviv 94
Bnei Herzliya 69

Maccabi Tel Aviv began their title defense by thrashing Bnei Herzliya at Yad Eliahu, behind Doron Jamchev's 20 points and the overall play of Tom Chambers.

Herzliya came out determined, with Amir Katz and Ami Nawi opening the game by scoring consecutive baskets to give them a 5-0 lead. However, Oded Kazash connected for two consecutive three-pointers, sparking Maccabi to a 23-12 run, and they never looked back.

Almost every Maccabi player contributed to the rout, with Chambers barely missing a triple double. Moti Daniel excelled on defense, while Tomer Steinhilber and Brad Leaf both provided solid minutes off the bench. Perhaps the biggest lift was provided by Guy Goodes, who saw action for the first time in almost a year after recovering from a devastating knee injury. Herzliya will have to try to regroup Sunday night at home if they're to avoid quick elimination.

In a Lower Playoffs opener, Maccabi Rishon LeZion beat Hapoel Eilat 96-90 in overtime thanks to two late three-pointers by Alexander Nickolitch and 34 points by Brian Oliver.

Finns end scoring slump with 6-3 win over France

VIENNA (Reuters) - Tideholders Finland broke out of a two-game scoring slump to hit five goals in the second period of route to a 6-3 win over France at the world ice hockey championships yesterday.

In the day's Group A opening round game, home side Austria won its first match of the tournament, edging out Slovakia 2-1.

The vaunted Finnish attack, which boasts several former and current NHL stars including Anaheim Mighty Duck sensation Teemu Selanne, had scored just three goals in seven periods before it broke loose after a scoreless first period which saw two Finnish goals disallowed when the net came off its moorings.

Kari Nurminen opened the scoring with the first of his two goals in the period, when his weak wrist shot from just inside the blue line snaked through a crowd of players to beat French netminder Michel Valliere.

Ville Peltonen made it 2-0 just a minute later, but Philippe Bozon brought France back to within a goal with a spectacular move around goalie Ari Sulander in the fourth minute of the second period.

But relentless pressure forced France to concede a rash of penalties leading to goals by Sami Kapatenen, Selanne and Nurminen's second, to close out the period.

France continued its close checking in the third period, but goals by Christian Pouget and Roger Dube sandwiched around Peltonen's second of the

game were too little too late.

"We are still not shooting and scoring the way we can, but I am satisfied with the two points although we played better the first two games than we did today," said Finnish coach Curt Lindstrom.

Austria's victory left home fans in a frenzy - and Slovakia as the only nation in the group without a win.

Engelbert Linder's goal in the second period proved to be the winner as Michael Pusbacher was nearly unbeatable in the Austrian net.

Urged on by a raucous crowd, Austria drew first blood through captain Manfred Muehr midway through the opening period.

Vlastimil Plavucha brought the celebrations to a brief halt at the 14 minute mark when he slammed the puck home to tie the score at 1-1, but Linder grabbed the winner on 36 minutes.

The Slovaks have also lost a battle off the ice, with Dallas Stars' Robert Petrovicky flying back to North America before yesterday's match after being forced to return to the team's farm club in Kalamazoo.

Petrovicky played a big part in the Slovaks' 3-3 draw with Canada in their opening match on Sunday, but did not have his club's permission to take part in the championship.

The result stands, although Canada had argued it should have been awarded the game because Petrovicky was ineligible.

and routed the Detroit Tigers 24-11.

It was the most runs against the Tigers in 84 years, matching the

AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division
W L Pct GS
Baltimore 12 8 .600 1
New York 10 9 .556 1
Toronto 9 11 .450 3
Detroit 8 14 .364 5
Boston 5 16 .238 7 1/2

Central Division
W L Pct GS
Cleveland 12 7 .632
Chicago 11 9 .550 1 1/2
Milwaukee 10 9 .526 2
Minnesota 8 10 .474 3
Kansas City 6 15 .286 7

West Division
W L Pct GS
Texas 14 7 .650
Seattle 13 8 .619 1 1/2
California 12 8 .600 1
Oakland 10 10 .500 3

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division
W L Pct GS
Montreal 14 7 .667
Atlanta 12 10 .545 2 1/2
Philadelphia 10 10 .500 3 1/2
New York 7 12 .368 6
Florida 6 14 .304 6.5

Central Division
W L Pct GS
St. Louis 12 10 .545
Houston 11 10 .524 1/2
Chicago 10 11 .476 1 1/2
Pittsburgh 10 11 .476 1 1/2
Cincinnati 9 12 .429 2 1/2

West Division
W L Pct GS
San Diego 14 7 .667
Colorado 10 10 .500 3 1/2
San Francisco 10 11 .476 4
Los Angeles 10 12 .455 4 1/2

WEDNESDAY'S NL RESULTS:
Minnesota 24, Detroit 11
Boston 7, Cincinnati 6 (10)
St. Louis 9, New York 4
Philadelphia 10, Colorado 8
Atlanta 3, San Francisco 3
Los Angeles 5, Houston 2
San Diego 5, Chicago 4

Twins clobber Tigers, 24-11

DETROIT (AP) - Greg Myers and Paul Molitor each had five RBIs Wednesday as the Minnesota Twins set a team record for runs

sacrifice fly in the seventh and a two-run single in the eighth.

Yankees 10, Indians 8

The host Yankees maintained their mastery over Dennis Martinez and Cleveland, scoring six times in the first inning to stop the Indians' five-game winning streak.

Martinez fell to 2-15 lifetime when facing the Yankees.

Tito Martinez hit his first homer for the Yankees as he beat the Indians for the 20th time in their last 26 meetings.

WEDNESDAY'S NL RESULTS:
Minnesota 24, Detroit 11
Boston 7, Cincinnati 6 (10)
St. Louis 9, New York 4
Philadelphia 10, Colorado 8
Atlanta 3, San Francisco 3
Los Angeles 5, Houston 2
San Diego 5, Chicago 4

marked set in a 24-2 loss to the Philadelphia Athletics on May 18, 1912.

Minnesota, which outthrew Detroit 19-14, blew a 7-2 lead, falling behind 10-7 in the fourth before rallying. The Twins previous high for runs was in a 21-7 win over Detroit on June 4, 1994.

Myers set a career high for RBIs with a run-scoring single in the first, an RBI double in the sixth, a

Mac. TA looks to consolidate lead

DEREK FATTAL

WITH just four rounds left to play, the contest for the National League title has swung sharply in favor of current champions Maccabi Tel Aviv after last week's 3-1 away victory over Maccabi Haifa.

After calling all the shots for half the match and building up a 1-0 lead, the Haifaites went on to ruin a season's good work by giving the game - and most likely the championship - away with a pathetic display in the second period.

Leaders Maccabi Tel Aviv have a relatively easy home match against lowly Zefirim Holon at Bloomfield tomorrow, while the northerners will try to pick up the pieces against Bnei Yehuda at the Hatikva Quarter.

The task of stopping the Tel Aviv juggernaut now falls to Betar Jerusalem whose own title aspirations have risen again from the ashes with three convincing wins in the last three rounds.

The gap between the second-placed Betar and Dror Kashtan's men is five points, with the Tel Avivians facing a potentially tough visit to Teddy Stadium next week. This weekend sees the Jerusalemites being hosted by Hapoel Beit She'an, a side still fighting for dear life at the opposite end of the standings, just two places above the relegation line.

The relegation fight involves the entire lower half of the division, from 9th-placed Bnei Yehuda (27 points), down to Maccabi Jaffa (19 points).

The pendulum is clearly swinging strongly against bottom-placed Jaffa and Betar Tel Aviv which have each lost three straight matches in their most

recent outings.

Jaffa has a chance to restore some of its battered moral at home against Ironi Rishon LeZion, while Betar Tel Aviv - which holds the dubious honor of sporting the National League's worst defense - could also chalk up some points hosting Hapoel Petah Tikva.

Above these two clubs, Holon will need a near miracle to salvage anything against Betar Jerusalem, while 14th-placed Hapoel Beersheba has a slightly easier match in store against Maccabi Petah Tikva.

The heat will also be felt in Kfar Sava where the locals meet neighboring Maccabi Herzliya this afternoon in a bid to pull further away from the relegation spots.

One of the more entertaining games should be the meeting between Hapoel Haifa and Hapoel Tel Aviv - two of the top flight's most attractive sides.

There is no program in the Second Division this weekend, where matches have been postponed in the wake of the security situation in the North which has affected Hapoel Kiryat Shmona.

This weekend's National League fixtures: (kick-off 16:30 tomorrow unless otherwise stated, first round results in parentheses):
Maccabi Tel Aviv v. Zefirim Holon (5-0), Bloomfield, 17:00; Hapoel Beit She'an v. Betar Jerusalem (0-4), Kiryat Eliezer, 18:00; Bnei Yehuda v. Maccabi Haifa (0-2), Hatikva Quarter; Hapoel Haifa v. Hapoel Tel Aviv (4-1), Kiryat Eliezer, 15:45; Maccabi Petah Tikva v. Hapoel Beersheba (1-0), Petah Tikva; Hapoel Kfar Sava v. Maccabi Herzliya (0-1), Kfar Sava, today, 16:00; Betar Tel Aviv v. Hapoel Petah Tikva (0-0), Bloomfield, 15:00; Maccabi Jaffa v. Ironi Rishon LeZion (0-1), Gaon Stadium.



HEADED NOWHERE - England captain David Platt, surrounded by Croatian defenders, dives for a header during their friendly at Wembley Wednesday.

England, Croatia play disappointing draw

LONDON (Reuters) - England and Croatia played out a 0-0 draw at Wembley on Wednesday which offered few real clues to either team's chances in June's European championship finals.

England, playing with a new formation of three centerbacks and a five-man midfield, seemed to hound more as a unit as the match progressed, but was rarely able to find a way through a tightly organized Croatian defense.

The visitors, tipped to do well as

the dark horses of Euro 96, displayed their full array of technical brilliance.

But although they attacked more dangerously in the closing stages, they played very cautiously in their first ever international against England and seemed determined not to lose.

There were few clear-cut chances for either side.

The closest the frustrated 33,000 crowd came to seeing a goal was after 79 minutes when

Liverpool's Steve McManaman lashed a shot against the post and an off-balance Teddy Sheringham volleyed the rebound wide of the open goal.

England had the ball in the net twice within six minutes midway through the first half, but both efforts were disallowed.

Robbie Fowler, starting his first match for England after a brief appearance as substitute against Bulgaria last month, thought he had scored after 22 minutes.

But the goal was disallowed because Sheringham's arm was judged to have hit Croat keeper Marjan Mrmic in the face.

Then six minutes later recalled England skipper David Platt had an effort ruled out for offside.

Platt also went close on the stroke of halftime with a powerful low header which Mrmic did well to save.

Fowler had a chance to score after 70 minutes but blasted the ball over the bar from six meters.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Canseco on disabled list
The slumping Boston Red Sox got more bad news Wednesday when slugger Jose Canseco went on the 15-day disabled list with a strained right hip flexor muscle.

Canseco, who re-signed a two-year contract with the Red Sox during the off-season, was hitting .239 with three homers and nine runs batted in. He went 0-for-4 in an 8-6 loss to the Minnesota Twins on Tuesday.

NBA plans to launch women's league
The NBA Board of Governors Wednesday approved the concept of a women's NBA to begin play as a summer league in 1997.

"We think this is an idea whose time has come," NBA commissioner David Stern said. "Fans have come to appreciate the excellence of women's basketball and we believe that significant network and sponsor opportunities exist to create a foundation on which to build a league."

Ukrainian gymnasts wow 'em at Hadar Yosef

THE world champion gymnast from the Ukraine, Lilia Podkoeva, was close to scoring perfect 10s at a friendly competition held at Hadar Yosef over the weekend.

The Ukrainian easily won the tournament with a score of 39.325 from 9.825 on the beam, 9.8 on the parallel bars, 9.825 on the floor exercises and 9.875 for her jumps. She was followed by her teammate Olga Taskanko with 38.1 and local gymnast Maya Shani (Hapoel Tel Aviv) was third with 37.8125.

The United Kingdom, also invited to compete, canceled 24 hours before the competition, giving the situation in the north as the reason.

Swimming hopes
Mickey Halika won the 400 meter individual medley race at a meet at Wingate in 4:29.08 but to swim in Atlanta, he will need to improve on that

LOCAL SCENE
HEATHER CHAIT
score to 4:23 at an international competition this weekend in Vienna.

Yoav Bruck won the 200m freestyle in 1:57.17 and Eytan Orbach finished first in the 100m backstroke in 59.42.

With Vadim Alexsev, the breastroker of the relay team, again sidelined with backache, the foursome may face forfeiting their Olympic dream.

Alexsev has to prove he can do the stroke at a competition next month in Monte Carlo.

Stringing the waters
Just four months after making aliyah from Uzbekistan, Michael Klegnuv is already making waves. At the Hapoel kayaking championships held at the Kineret which attracted 260 eaves, he won both the 200m and 500m distances while also beating national champion Eitan Nevo.

Jerusalem on the run
Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert will fire the starting gun for the race to behold in Jerusalem on Friday, May 17, as part of the city's 300th celebrations.

So far 12 municipalities around the country have responded positively to Olmert's request that similar races be held in their cities as a salute to Jerusalem.

The capital's race will be run from the Haas promenade through Sultan's Pool, Mt. Zion, Jaffa Gate and ending with a festive welcome at the municipality.

Croatia bound
Walking proud after their recent 20-12 win over Luxembourg in Herzliya, the national rugby team left yesterday for Croatia to play the host team tomorrow in the preliminary round of the FIRA European Rugby tournament, level C.

In two weeks' time, Israel will face Monaco, also in an away game, for the last game in this round.

Earlier, he said he expected the Heat and coach Pat Riley to try and rile him up.

"Pat Riley's going to do all he can to send someone purposely out there to beat me up and to get me to blow up. But it's not going to happen," Rodman promised after the season finale against Washington.

NBA Playoffs
First Round (Best-of-5)
Last night:
New York at Cleveland
Atlanta at Indiana
Portland at Utah
Houston at L.A. Lakers
Tonight:
Detroit at Orlando
Phoenix at San Antonio
Miami at Chicago
Sacramento at Seattle
Tomorrow:
New York at Cleveland
Houston at L.A. Lakers
Atlanta at Indiana
Portland at Utah

